

Inside --
TENANT TIMES
Election Special
 and
EARTHQUAKE
BULLETIN

NORTH MISSION NEWS

Inside Inside --
NEW DRAMATIC
CHRONICLE
Arts Alive in Mission & S.O.M.
 What's up & Running?
 Also: Mark Twain on October Quake
 --Predictions of Next One

NORTH MISSION ASSOCIATION, 3004 16TH ST.
 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103 TEL:415/626-2882

Editor-in-Chief
 Victor Miller

NOVEMBER 1989



First earthquake, then arson, then normalcy, sort of, as Dan Rutherford delivers the mail on Shotwell St. Photo by Fuminori Sato.

EARTHQUAKE AND AFTERMATH IN THE MISSION

- by Brian Doohan and Victor Miller

At 5:04 PM October 17th, a modest crowd of bargain matineers spellbound by "Halloween 5" and "Fright Night" at the New Mission Cinema watched in confusion, then horror, as the walls of the old theater twisted and groaned, the monstrous shadows on the screen contorted, flickered and then disappeared as the power went out.

Walter DeVecchi, 91, a Mission resident and News columnist for many years until 1988, was sitting at a table at Laguna Honda Hospital waiting for supper. "I felt my wheelchair moving and said it must be another quake, like the one I went through in 1906. You could hear the windows shaking and the building crackling so I thought we were going to come apart, but I guess they built it strong."

"They say it wasn't as strong as the earthquake of oh six, but no matter how big it was it shook things up good."

And when the quake was over, Laura Cruz of Woodward Street took direct action to solve a problem that would bedevil hundreds, if not thousands of homeowners, renters and small businesspeople... she drove to the Marina, found and "dragged a structural engineer back to the building" to perform an inspection.

The 7.1 shaker didn't cause the fatalities such as happened in the East Bay or wholesale devastation like that in the Marina district, but did interrupt the routine of Mission residents, residents and will, over time, lead to visible physical, economic and social changes.

- The City's emergency services responded well but also were the beneficiaries of several "lucky breaks" without which damage would have been far worse.

- Surveys conducted by the Mission Economic Development Association

(MEDA) and Mission Housing Development Corporation found 54 businesses and over 160 residences to have suffered structural damage. In addition to direct earthquake costs, indirect expenses such as lost wages and small business inventory damages will strike the City's poorer neighborhoods like the Mission relatively harder than the rest of San Francisco. Areas of greatest damage tended to be either atop filled-in lakes, marshes and creeks or on their shores... the most impacted area being the half block between 17th, 18th, South Van Ness and Shotwell.

- Several local cultural and architectural landmarks... most notably the Mission Armory... sustained serious damage that casts their future in doubt.

- Services to earthquake victims were discriminatory with the "nouveau homeless" of the Marina given priority over the poor and elderly of the Mission, South of Market and other lower-income neighborhoods. Confusion still exists as to the habitability of "yellow tagged" buildings (those which have been declared neither safe nor unsafe hut, in the bureaucratic vernacular "limited entry"). But the disaster may also have the effect of

radically speeding up some of the more positive aspects of Mayor Agnos' homeless plan and generating jobs.

- Long term housing and economic trends augur an accelerated process of gentrification and displacement with the gap between rich and poor, homelessness and social costs all increasing. The rebuilding process, according to one Berkeley business professor may well result in a substantially different San Francisco.

Larry Ratti, Community Relations Officer for Mission Police Station was off-duty

See Page 4.



Red bricked and red tagged, demolition could be in the works for the Mission Armory at 14th and Mission.

Photo by Fuminori Sato.

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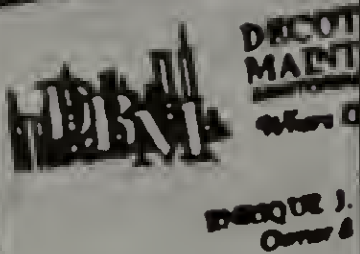
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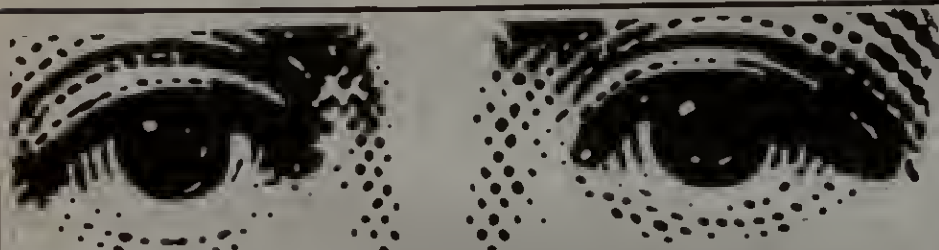
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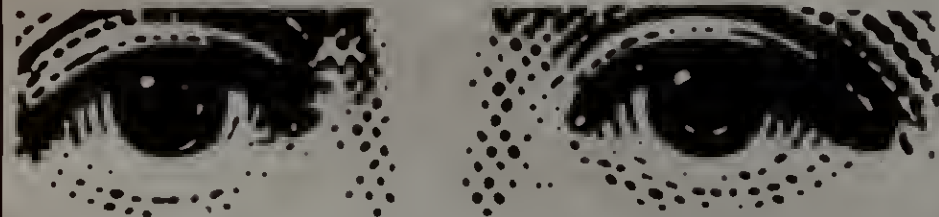
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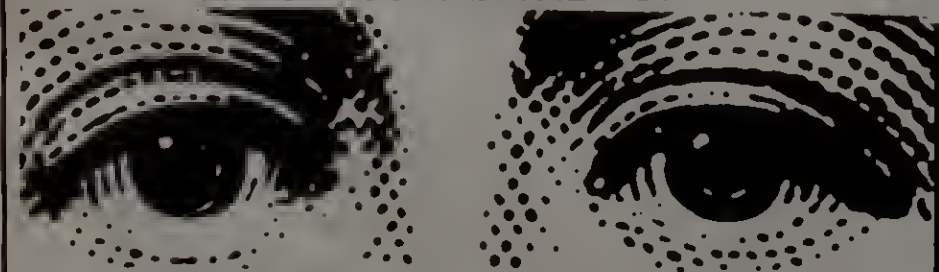
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ONLY YOU CAN SAVE CARNAVAL

On October 12, 1989, the Department of Public Works requested the organizers of CARNAVAL petition the Board of Supervisors for a two day street closure as a result of a few neighborhood leaders who stated that the problems were greater than the benefits. In their view, the large amount of visitors to the Mission meant drinking, drugs and violence.

The festival organizers MECA and the Mission Police believe that crowd control has not been a problem. The festival site, located in a commercial/industrial section centered around 17th and Harrison Streets has few residents to impact upon and the businesses are closed on weekends. According to festival consultants provided by the Convention and Visitors' Bureau, expanding the number of festival days is the prudent way for a successful festival to grow and insure that needs and concerns are addressed.

There is no doubt that drugs and crime affect the Mission more than most neighborhoods and the North Mission Association supports efforts to reduce and control these substances which waste so many

lives. However, striking out at the most successful event our neighborhood has produced is ill-conceived and self-defeating. Nothing competes with CARNAVAL for neighborhood pride, visitor promotion and just good positive energy. These leaders hurt themselves and their community by choosing to fight an easy target and indulging in the sin of blind extremism by insisting that all alcohol consumption anytime, anyplace is bad and must be stopped.

Before MECA took on promotion in 1986, CARNAVAL was in danger of collapsing. The event has grown every year since, and next year hopes to attract 500,000 people for the Grand Parade on the last Sunday in May. Last year was a tremendous artistic triumph with more and better costumed dancers than ever before as well as nearly 400,000 spectators who read past all the In Concert Against Aids hoopla to find out about the new time for the event on Memorial Day weekend. This is a parade that some call the Greatest SHow in the West and could expect to compete with the other Granddaddy's of



North American parades such as New York's Macy's Thanksgiving and Los Angeles' Rose Bowl on TV at some point down the road. As such, the idea of moving out of the Mission continues to come up.

MECA has been making plans to restructure around a committee system and has been making some attempts to recruit Carnival Club members. Also being explored is the possibility of the troubled San Francisco county fair becoming associated with what is rapidly becoming the major regional celebration. Still unaddressed is whether CARNAVAL-San Francisco should have its own Board of Directors.

That MECA has an enviable record of success is established. However, the community now wants more from MECA than

just three well-attended and produced festivals per year. We hope that the community will appreciate that it is more likely to get what it wants from MECA by supporting its efforts rather than fighting their growth.

The DPW decision has to be appealed to the full Board of Supervisors. As we go to press no date has been set for the hearing but it probably will take place some Monday in November. For exact time and date and more information, call MECA at 826-1401.



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Stuffed tiger and tree stump hold two buildings oprot. Photo by Fuminori Sato.



Ghosttown, the devastated 300 block of Shotwell Street. Photo by Fuminori Sato.

EARTHQUAKE AND AFTERMATH

Continued from Page One.

and awaiting the start of Game 3 in the upper deck of Candlestick with his 6 year old son. "When the shaking started, first dust started coming out of the stadium walls, then pebbles, then fist-sized balls of cement, then whole chunks of concrete."

He drove to his home on the Peninsula, dropped off his son and sped north to the station where officers were being assigned to the streets as they arrived. "Our primary concern was to find out if there were any fires," stated Mission Captain Michael Brush, "then to look for collapsed buildings."

Brush believes that police statistics will eventually show that crime was actually lower than average for a comparable week-day evening, a fact that he attributes to the immediacy of police presence in the commercial districts.

But a number of residents of high-crime areas such as that around the Valencia Gardens projects also note the presence of a vigilant (and heavily armed) citizenry as a deterrent to looters.

Perhaps the biggest criminal score of October 17th occurred when opportunistic musicians forced their way into the Guitar Center on Mission and South Van Ness.

Both police and firefighters worked more and longer shifts, and were shifted out of the Mission to areas like the Marina. A fire truck assigned to Station 11 was re-assigned to the downtown area on the night of the quake. According to Lt. Carey of that station, the principle duty of firemen remaining in the Mission was to check for gas leaks.

"There were 23 other fires besides the one in the Marina," he said, "and one more big one would have done serious damage." Small water main breaks emptied one of the three high pressure tanks in the neighborhood, a condition Carey called "hazardous". In the Marina, of course, a big water main did burst and that neighborhood was spared only because the fireboat Phoenix, which had barely survived numerous attempts to scrap it as a budgetary savings, was able to scoop up water from the Bay and from the reflecting pool at the Palace of Fine Arts to fill the gap.

When the walls shook and the power went off at San Francisco General Hospital, a State accreditation task force was treated to an in-depth example of disaster preparedness. "We had generator power within five minutes," said SFGH spokesman Bob Christmas, "and because we have backup

power on emergency services such as respirators, no patient was care-affected and ambulatory patients were evacuated to the lobby. So we learned about the damage the way everybody else did... television... and when we saw that the Bay Bridge was down and the Marina was burning it sunk in."

Although expecting the worst, SFGH wound up admitting only 46 patients with earthquake-related injuries... about 20% over the average daily total and well within their capacities. "People were either crushed to death or walked away," said Christmas, "and most of the Marina victims went to Letterman." A crowd did eventually gather at SFGH, but most were people who were either worried about relatives or who were drawn to the facility because it was the nearest place with lights and power.

Common to police, fire and hospital officials was a shortage of communications equipment such as two-way radios but otherwise, the reaction of all was that the Mission was prepared... and lucky. "In a disaster, you take anybody who comes in the door," said Christmas, "and we were prepared to do that for at least a week."

TALLYING UP THE DAMAGE

Shortly after the quake, the City re-

quested MEDA to make a survey of obvious damage to Mission businesses and MHDC, a non-profit housing corporation, to assess the damage to residences.

The MEDA survey team found that business damage ranged included broken windows, cracked or fallen plaster and inventory losses (especially glass and ceramics and perishable food). Several ground floor tenants of a large building at 26th and Mission were particularly hard hit as were a number of auto-repair shops on South Van Ness between 17th and 18th.

"There are at least ten businesses closed around Shotwell," Roberto Barragan of MEDA told the News. MEDA has been working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Small Business Administration to obtain relief for Mission businesses, but, as these bureaucracies are not expected to produce funds for two months, is also lobbying the City to modify its revolving loan fund.

Philip Dochow of MHDC believes that at least 50 of the damaged units surveyed will be lost. A Halloween summit between the City's housing officials and non-profit housing providers also targeted FEMA funding and raised the prospect of a loosening of some of the Federal Housing

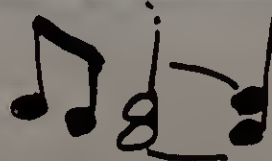
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"In praise lift up your voice"



October 17th South Van Ness cracks up. Photo by Pat Howard.

and Urban Development's more arcane red tape. MHDC Director Maryann Dillon said that building owners can be kept posted on developments by calling 864-MHDC.

Both the business and housing sectors are eyeing funds earmarked by the Redevelopment Agency to the Mayor's Offices of Business and Housing. And MEDA is also preparing to assist local contractors in applying for a share of the rehabilitation and construction contracts to be assigned. (Neither MEDA nor MHDC will be hiring directly; both recommended contacting union halls or local job-development agencies such as the Mission Hiring Hall or Mission Language and Vocational School re opportunities.)

A NEW LOOK FOR THE MISSION?

Within a few months, quite a number of changes may be expected in the landscape of the Mission. Perhaps the most striking is the prospect that the cavernous Mission Armory, which sustained severe structural damage on the 14th Street and Julian Street sides, will have to be demolished.

The fate of the Armory has dominated Mission economic planning for almost two years since it was offered for sale by the State of California... the most actively pursued use being for film and video production studios. Now, the structure is a testament to "Earthquake '89". Lengthy cracks are visible on Julian. "The 14th Street wall has pulled away from the mezzanine and could fall with a good after-shock," Larry Guthrie of the State Architect's Office told the News. When asked if the building... which had not been tagged at press time... deserved a red "Unsafe" tag, Guthrie replied "Yes."

Captain Brush feels that the quake also aggravated existing toxic conditions at the site, including not only asbestos, the removal of which had stalled development, but an accumulation of years of poisonous debris including oil from military motor vehicles and lead from the indoor target range. "Whenever the State wants to sell something cheap, there's probably a reason," he said.

Guthrie's final report will go the California Department of Architecture and Engineering who... after a study process that should extend well into next year... will vote



Buildings above this filled over area of creeks, lagoons and marshlands suffered the most.

thumbs up or thumbs down on the Mission's most ambitious and troubled venture.

Among the other Mission landmarks that sustained notable damage were the Mission Library which remains closed, its clock stopped at 5:04, the Women's Building (which has sustained a reported \$150,000 damage) and Dove Club on 18th and Golden Gate Lutheran Church across from Dolores Park. Employees of the Greek Orthodox Church were emptying out offices there and the Far West Labs at Folsom and 15th (where the street is cracked and slabs of sidewalk were uprooted) have sustained undisclosed damage. And the historic Malvina Building on 11th and Folsom, a frequent TV and film location and home to the Show and Tell Gallery, is cordoned off and probably will have to come down.

THE POOR GET POORER

The earthquake pulled the rug out from beneath the feet of many residents of the City's upper-income Marina district, tumbling them into a nightmare which may last for weeks or months. But for thousands of the less photogenic already existing at or over the edge of destitution, the disaster was just another kick in the head.

"A lot of the elderly with medical problems now at the Presidio will need more services," said Elizabeth Anello. "I've seen one man with severe burns on both feet who

lives in the streets walking, shoeless, in his bandaged feet since the earthquake."

Anello, a former president of the North Mission Association with extensive experience in the field of homeless and mental health services described the City's Hotline Hotel "safety net" as being in "a state of absolute chaos" due to the loss of an estimated 500 low-income units. Earthquake damage to the Delta and Anglo Hotels on Sixth Street alone have taken over 300 dwellings off the market and the highly publicized shelter at the KGO building in the Tenderloin is on hold as the damaged building is checked to see if it can be saved.

While the nouveau homeless dodged the media and ate donated cheesecake and roast beef and oysters compliments of Stars at the Marina Middle School, hundreds of "old homeless" bunked down at Moscone Center until the commencement of a convention of plastic surgeons. Women, children and the elderly were relocated to the Presidio, the rest were shipped out to a U.S. Navy helicopter carrier berthed at Pier 32 and, a few days later, to a donated building at Polk and Geary except for about 100 fortunate souls who've joined the nouveaux at Marina Middle School.

Walter Park of Independent Housing Services, an advocacy group for disabled tenants, has helped to put together a referral service listing over 1,700 housing oppor-

Continued on next page.

Emergency Business Assistance

The recent earthquake had a devastating impact on the City of San Francisco and the Bay Area. Any resulting window, wall or other building damage could cause your business harm. Any unnecessary loss of business, for the short term or long term can be avoided if you act quickly.

The Mission Economic Development Association is available to provide you with emergency business assistance:

- (1) Assistance with insurance claims, fire investigations and restrictions on reopening, landlord/tenant problems.
- (2) Building safety determination, construction estimates, etc.
- (3) Financial assistance, including federal assistance loan application (when available) for renovation and repairs.
- (4) Information, referral, and organizing of clean-up assistance.

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BOOKS BOUGHT & SOLD



October 18th One damaged business made the best of a bad situation.

tunities ranging from small, cheap hotel rooms to luxury apartments. This service is a part of the Red Cross effort operating out of St. Mary's Church at Gough and Geary Streets, which has been one of the Red Cross command centers... an element of the Mayor's Homeless Plan that has been talked about for years but needed the crisis to spring into action.

Park explained that anybody who was displaced by the earthquake, including persons who were in the Hotline system at some point in the last 30 days, is eligible for placement and for up to half of the move-in cost, if such is required. The Red Cross is also providing such services as replacement of medical supplies lost or damaged and agencies such as the Department of Social Services has a sign-up table for benefits at St. Mary's.

This cooperation between individual service organizations has been one of the few bright spots in the quake. "We've been trying to get housing coordination for years and it took an earthquake to do it," Park concluded.

"Some aspects of the Mayor's Homeless Program have been accelerated," confirmed Anello, "delivery of detox systems set up by St. Vincent dePaul, that followed the homeless from Moscone Center to the ship to Polk and Geary, Community Substance Abuse Services, the San Francisco Department of Social Services and Community Mental Health Services. It's a model for how the system can work."

And she states that some of the homeless have contributed valuable volunteer services too. "Some of the homeless people were out helping other people on the streets or handicapped people in hotels and shelters. Disasters tend to bring out both the best and worst."

On a lower note, friction developed between the local and national Red Cross on the issue of whether to provide services at the Polk and Geary building to the nouveau homeless only. Martin Torow, Assistant

Director of Emergency Services for the local body successfully argued against turning away people who could not prove their "homed" status prior to October 17th. But all over the Bay Area, relief services reported instances of help being offered "as long as it's for the nice homeless".

As the immediate danger subsided, questions over inspection procedures, economic priorities and relief funds have arisen. Tenant organizations are concerned that a disproportionate share of the burden will fall on low-income residents.

Robin Kilgore had been concerned with the condition of his apartment at 15th and Landers before the quake and the appearance of apparent foundation damaged and a long crack in the roof that let in water from the following week's rains was only slightly more disturbing than that of some building inspectors eager to get through the day. "They seemed to be in a hurry and wouldn't provide a copy of the safety certificate," he complained.

The City's Bureau of Building Inspections quickly arrived at a policy that is certain to create controversy in the months to come. Owners of buildings found unsafe will be required to have their repairs inspected by a licensed private engineer whose findings cannot be appealed. "They'll be putting their name on the line," said a BBI spokesman, but renters and neighbors are certain to challenge this policy as time goes by allowing issues such as the fate of those who paid rents in advance for uninhabitable housing to be raised. (See the enclosed Tenant Times for further renters' information.)

HISTORY REPEATING ITSELF?

Even as direct impacts are mitigated over time, the quake is likely to lead to long-term changes in the face of the Mission.

Media attention has focused on the Marina whose afflicted residents (in most cases) have jobs, other income, insurance and a support network of friends and family.

Even if most displaced Mission residents are allowed to return to their homes, the loss of affordable housing in the South of Market will send more people out into the streets chasing a shrinking pool of affordable housing - meaning rent increases and more evictions, homelessness and costs that, one way or another, must be paid.

Kris Rosen, a business professor at UC Berkeley who has made a study of land use changes after natural disasters such as the great fires in Boston, Chicago and Baltimore, believes that the Mission narrowly escaped extinction as a neighborhood. "If the whole area had fallen down, the real estate interests would have tried to extend the business district," she declared.

One consequence of natural disasters Rosen found from her researches is the inevitable conflict between the political establishment, working people and business interests. The latter prevailed in Boston but, following the Chicago fire of 1871, that city's working classes succeeded in overturning a proposed law that would have banned wood housing as few of them could afford bricks (in San Francisco, the reverse may be true!).

Rosen pointed to the Baltimore fire of 1904 as an instance where these inter and intra-class struggles were solved by a novel, if not exactly courageous solution... issuing 50 and 100 year bonds to parcel out the costs of recovery to posterity. "Before the Baltimore fire," she said, "it was unheard of for municipal bonds to be issued for more than 15 years."

And a paradoxical outcome of the San Francisco disaster may be the construction of more luxury highrise apartments on the most quake-prone land such as that in the Marina or around 17th and Shotwell. Because of the costs of sinking pilings through landfill down to bedrock, three or four story buildings would not be economical.

The only alternative would be rezoning affected areas to small, single family housing or to open space. One of the outcomes of

the quake of '89 might even be the uncovering and restoration of Mission Creek as a small lake and park at the afflicted Shotwell Street site.

Another may be the forcible displacement of many low-income residents due to misguided generosity on the part of San Francisco voters.

Following the quake, most political campaigns suspended their labors for and against the stadium, for the domestic partners law etc. but, by night, the minions of the Coalition for Better Housing (a gang of realtors and big landlords) were tacking up tacky signs asserting that their initiatives to subvert the Mayor's bland vacancy-control package, impose a rent tax which would be paid by small landlords and the tenants of CBH members and raise condo conversions by 250% — Props. Q and R — would "help the homeless". On October 26, a full page ad for Proposition Q appeared in the conservative gay Bay Area Reporter utilizing fresh earthquake photos and the lead "Now More Than Ever..."

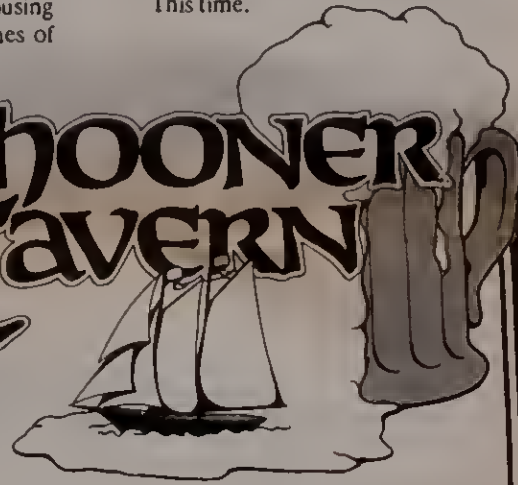
On the night of the quake, San Francisco D.A. Arlo Smith issued a stern warning to looters which perhaps helped keep such incidences down. But as anybody knows, it is both safer and more profitable to steal with the pen than with the sword and CBH's twisted pleadings from atop their platform of corpses and rubble stand out as perhaps even more disgusting than the robberies of stalled commuters outside of Candlestick.

Fortunately such exceptions are few. As things get back to normal... i.e. the Day of the Dead, the '49ers, Halloween and an elderly commuter in full Batman regalia burying his nose in a book seen through the window of a BART train... the merchants, emergency service officials and people on the streets never seem to tire of telling each other, "we were lucky".

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BACK TO WORK

- by Nick Hornsfelt

Let's just imagine that you've had a heart attack, the doctor tells you that you've suffered severe damage to your major arteries and that there's no telling what other complications will show up. The next day your boss calls and says "Heck, you're all right, you better git in to work cause getting back to a normal routine is going to be the best thing for you! And besides, we've got a corporation to run here!" What would you say to a boss with an attitude like that?

Well, on October 17th at 5:04 PM the "heart of the bay" stopped for 15 seconds and the world changed. Nonetheless, not 48 hours after a 7 earthquake, the devastation of which we will not be able to accurately measure for months, if ever, thousands of good, "non-essential" workers were back on the job at the urging of hack psychologists on TV telling us not to give in to phobia and various city officials mouthing corporate-party lines.

I stayed home. Oh, I know that most of you thought I make a living selling "hot" MUNI transfers and collecting royalties from my many unpublished books. Not so! I actually have a real job at a real corporation and daily sally-forth into the bowels of capitalism grabbing every buck I can to support a greedy landlord

and a small addiction to Camel Lights and Bud; that is until the day after the "Big Enough For Me, Thanks".

As I lay in my little bed, clutching my emergency supply of tortilla chips, watching the local TV personalities switching relentlessly back and forth and back and forth from the disasters of Cypress to the Marina I began to notice something in the coverage was missing. Yes, the Mission got away with relatively little damage, but why didn't anyone say that on TV? And what about the Castro, or the Haight, the Fillmore and, for all those little worker-hees, what about the Financial District? The television generation should have learned by now, it is important to watch what the media doesn't say as much as what it does say.

By Thursday afternoon I was ready for some human contact, instead I chose to go to my favorite cocktail lounge. There in a dark corner sat my buddy Gary, his eyes shiny and his drink about empty. After the appropriate refill from our ever-perky bartender, K.Y., I got the story.

The office building Gary works in on 2nd and Mission lost most of its windows. The building across the street has big cracks and is obviously no longer sitting straight, and all up and down the downtown section of Mission are buildings that will either have to come down or at least have to be gutted.

So much for all the smiling reassurance from those Bechtel engineers



who joined city officials in declaring downtown a safe place to work, shop or "do lunch".

With aftershocks coming 500 to 1,000 a day, I figured Monday would be early enough to get back to my routine and if the boss got upset my greedy landlord would just have to starve!

Well, Monday the 23rd was "therapy day" in the Financial District. Lots of people had not come in before then. The Marina executives were still out trying to find new apartments or at least a moving company that would go into a yellow-tagged building to retrieve larger pieces of invaluable junk and get it out in 15 minutes or less. "Where were you?"

Around noon, along with a few hundred other office workers, I gathered the courage to visit Mission Street and, after a quick tour, knew the media had left its viewers with far less than "the whole truth" and my buddy Gary had been right, it will be a long time before a lot of these buildings will be safe again.

Safe again? Does everything have to be rubble to make the six o'clock news? In an area with 5,000,000 people living on a fault line, is anybody leaving?

Count on it. Shall we bet on which corporation moves out first?

By the time you read this the quake has been up-graded from 7.0 to 7.1. When children cry at night the points become pointless. The 300 block of Shotwell is red-tagged. Oakland is a sea of buildings that will be gone soon and the integrity of some of San Francisco's most famous landmarks is in question.

Fear not, ABC will not lose a penny of its advertising revenue from the World Series. They may make more money from The Series by The Quake. The games go on. Forget a new ballpark.

And bow is Ol' Nick holding up? Well, for almost five years now I have tried to have you see the most outrageous situations in our city and our neighborhood with a sense of humor. I have Poo- pooed the "reactionaries" for their constant pounding at a seemingly deaf-and-very-dumb city government. But there comes a time when humor dries up. When the citizens of the city I love so much are so sadly failed by their officials and media I'm more angry than amused. But don't worry, I just saw on TV that I'm suffering a normal post-quake depression. Right!

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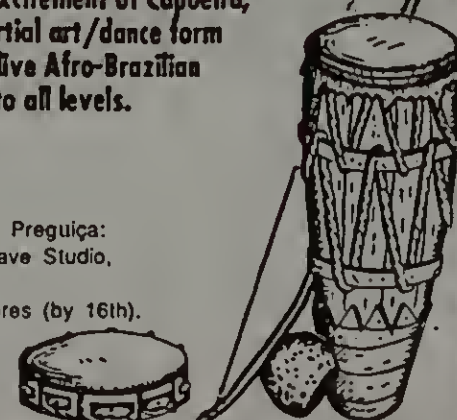
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NORTH MISSION BALLOT RECOMMENDATIONS

by Bernd Pick

The quake is over except for the aftershocks and life starts to get back to normal. Normal life in San Francisco in October means election campaigns. Only two elective offices are on the ballot and both candidates are running as unopposed incumbents. But make no mistake. There are twenty-two propositions on the ballot determining City policies and financial priorities for many years to come. Be aware that all political mail is paid PR and five mailers from the same campaign in as many days just means that a political campaign has a lot of money. So, do your own thinking and read the fine print in the voter's pamphlet for all the aspects not mentioned in the paid arguments and the dailies which have their political agenda.

Following we bring you the viewpoints and recommendations of the Executive Board of the North Mission Association.

Bond issues, as always, are the first ones on the list of propositions. This bond issue asks for \$59.7 million to improve earthquake safety of City and County buildings, remove asbestos hazards, and make buildings more accessible to the disabled.

A fiscally more responsible and honest approach would have been to establish a special reserve fund in years past. But public budgets across the country are not put together that way. So, if you agree with us that the mentioned improvements to public buildings are needed, vote YES on A.

Nobody likes a tax increase. But the public transit system needs improvements and that costs money. City Hall feels that raising the sales tax by .5 percent is the only way to go. We beg to differ.

In opposition to the regressive tax several recommendation were offered how to raise money for the needed improvements. Among the suggestions: Cut out unneeded projects like the \$68+ million for transit improvements to the proposed stadium (this money was omitted but should be added as cost

to the proposed Downtown stadium). The City expects to have a surplus of \$20 million from the sale of the Northpoint bus yard to be used to buy the stadium site (not mentioned either as cost of the proposed stadium); that money should stay in the MUNI budget. MUNI admittedly loses several million dollars a years to the black market in bus transfers. MUNI is unable and unwilling to combat this grand larceny from within its own administration. Everybody who rides busses regularly has experienced the "lunching" of buses, two or more buses of the same line, one after another and then half hour waiting times for buses on a ten-minute-interval schedule; MUNI's effort and ability to manage costs and resources efficiently is severely in doubt. We recommend to MUNI and the responsible politicians to go back to the drawing board, and we recommend to our readers: NO on B.

Proposition O purports to streamline election financing by throwing out City guidelines on campaign contributions. The current limitations would be replaced by state guidelines which allow individual contributions to candidates of five to ten times the current limit of \$500 per donor.

To give you an idea in practical terms what this proposition would allow, consider the customary "bundling" of donations by big campaign spenders. Currently, a realty with 20 realtors can give 21 X \$500 = \$10,500 to one candidate (one time as business and twenty times as individuals). Under the proposed measure, the limit for said realty would be 21 X \$5,000 = \$105,000 to one candidate alone. This proposition is clearly a slap in the face of San Franciscans who only three years ago voted to lower the limits on campaign contributions. We recommend to slap back with a NO on O.

The North Mission Association recommends No on P, the measure to publicly finance Lurie's stadium. The North Mission Association instead favors Prop. V to look into possible

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improvements to Candlestick, the great survivor of the recent quake.

See elsewhere in this issue for a detailed discussion on Proposition P.

This election sees a proposition by the Coalition for Better Housing, a real estate lobbying group. They propose a tax on rental receipts for an "Affordable Housing Fund". Are landlords imposing a tax on themselves? It is only one of the ironies of Proposition Q that it would need a giant bureaucracy, similar to the one realtors' wrongly accused the Vacancy Control Proposition U (1988) of creating. We refer to the more detailed discussion in the Tenant Times, inserted in this issue of the North Mission News, and clearly say NO on Q.

Under current law, and after a long fight by tenants, the conversion of rental units to condominiums is limited to 200 units a year. Realtors want to do away with the condo conversion law. They found some tenants and a lot of paid petitioners to put a "Tenant Initiated Conversion" on the ballot. The fine print says that the only "tenant" who can apply for conversion is the owner who can become a "tenant" by definition (Prop. R, Sect. 1400(k)). For a more detailed discussion we refer to the Tenant Times in this issue. We recommend a clear NO on R.

Proposition S is a referendum to repeal a recently enacted City ordinance. That ordinance allows unmarried couples, of mixed or of same sex, to register at City Hall as Domestic Partners. "This ordinance requires hospitals and other health care facilities to allow a patient's domestic partner the

same visiting rights allowed a patient's spouse" (Voter Pamphlet Analysis). Not more, not less. Any speculation what that ordinance might do or not do is just that, speculation and rumor to promote religious intolerance. People in need, and that includes especially people in hospitals and hospices, should have a clear right to be visited by their life partners. YES on S, amen.

Proposition U is straight forward. It asks you, the voter, to make it a voter-approved policy of San Francisco to support the continuance and the expansion of community-based AIDS research and services. Nobody disagrees. Neither do we. Vote YES on U.

Improving the existing and earthquake proof Candlestick Park is seen as the alternative to building an additional stadium. Even Willie Mays said, the new stadium would have to be domed to make a difference. Why we disagree with Bob Lurie's stadium, see Proposition P. Vote Yes on V.

As turn-out on the ballot boxes declines, we think it is a good idea to investigate to possibility of voting by mail. So, we recommend YES on W.

As you noticed, we did not cover all propositions. On Propositions C, F, G, J through N we agreed not to issue recommendations. Propositions D, E, H, and I showed split opinions, not enough of majorities either way; therefore we don't give recommendations on these measures. And Proposition T was taken off the ballot. So, between now and November 7, please read the voter pamphlet and participate in the campaigns of your liking. And, of course, do not forget to vote on Tuesday, November 7.

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Cult Classic Restored CARNIVAL OF SOULS

There are plenty of weird films around, but there are only a few that are real classics; films that we can watch again and again. *Carnival of Souls* is one of those movies. Filmed in Lawrence, Kansas on a nearly non-existent budget, *Carnival of Souls* tells the story of a young woman who is trapped in the netherworld between life and death. It is one of the most eerie and atmospheric movies ever made. For years *Carnival of Souls* has been available only in a shortened version. Existing prints were badly worn. For the first time in twenty-five years, a new print has been struck from the original negative complete with eleven minutes missing from later versions. This is a rare opportunity to see one of the great archetypal films of horror cinema. Directed by Herk Harvey. With Candice Hilligoss, Sidney Berg. 35 mm. 80 mins. 1962

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Jerry Rees' THE BRAVE LITTLE TOASTER

While movies like *Roger Rabbit* have sparked a new interest in animation and while comic books are revived as box office monsters, movies like *The Brave Little Toaster* get lost in the hoopla. We're delighted to present a premiere theatrical showing of this wonderful, witty, and hip cartoon feature created by Disney alumnus Jerry Rees (who also worked on the under-rated *Trom*). It's the story of five Hermanesque (as in Pee Wee) home appliances — with names like Lampy, Blanky (an electric blanket), and Kirby the vacuum cleaner — who have been abandoned in an isolated cabin. Together they venture thousands of miles in search of their owner. Each appliance is a fully-developed character, displaying sentiments and personalities that make this much more than a children's story. "I exited the theater in rapture. . . *The Brave Little Toaster* is the best animated feature in years. I say that without hesitation." — S.P. Leiva, *Animation Magazine*. Color. 35mm. 90 mins. 1988.

Wed-Tue • Nov 29-Dec 5

LODZ GHETTO

Its text drawn directly from the diaries and writings of the people of Lodz Ghetto, this powerful film details, through their own voices images, the decimation of a community of 200,000 which, at the end of WWII had but 800 survivors. Focusing on Mordechai Rumkowski, "Eidest of the Jews," a Nazi-appointed figure, who collaborated in the destruction of his own people, this film is "unusually intelligent and powerful. The filmmakers allow the assembled words and images to carry the meanings; they know that moralizing, hindsight, and jacked-up pathos are unnecessary and can sometimes have the effect of distancing us from the enormity of events." — Terrence Rafferty, *THE NEW YORKER*. Critically acclaimed, *LODZ GHETTO* deploys documentary veracity in an orchestrated manner more akin to fiction. Its horror, drawn from realities of the Holocaust, is more terrifying than any imagined story could ever be produced by Steve Seidman. Written, produced and directed by Kathryn Tavena and Alan Adelson. Color. 35mm. 193 mins. 1989.

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HEADSTART FUNDS MISSING

The Mission Headstart program may be forced to shut down due to a lack of funding, says Director Elisa Miranda. According to Miranda, California Human Resources, Inc., the designated grantee organization which administers Federal money to San Francisco's Headstart programs, is experiencing "some sort of fiscal shortage".

Closing of the Mission program would affect 220 schoolchildren and their parents, mostly lower class minority women. The staff of 30 at the center would lose their jobs.

Most of San Francisco's Headstart programs are already in trouble. Of the 900 kids normally serviced by Headstart city-wide, at least 460 are currently going unserved. Headstart centers at 5th Street, Geneva Tower, Golden Gate, Potrero Hill, St. Cyprian's, Sutter Street, Temple United Methodist Church and a "Homebase Program" (in-home services) are all "grantee-operated Programs", run by California Human Resources, Inc. (CHRI) itself. They were all closed early last year, in May. They have yet to re-open this year.

The Mission and Chinatown (Kaiming) programs, each serving 220 kids, are the only two centers still operating in San Francisco. But Miranda worries they may be next to get the budgetary axe. The Mission center requested \$48,000 at the beginning of

October, which they hoped would carry them through the end of the fiscal year (Nov. 30). They only received \$21,000.

Where's the money? CHRI receives all of San Francisco's Headstart money — nearly 3 million — in quarterly installments from the Federal Agency for Children, Families and Youth. It then administers the money to each individual program, in monthly checks. By late October, with 8 centers already closed, CHRI still hadn't provided answers about November funding. CHRI Executive Director Greg Powell told Miranda, "It's up to the Board," (which is considering claiming bankruptcy).

Originally affiliated with the for-profit Human Resources Corporation, CHRI has been the sole designated grantee for five years — "and there were problems every year," says Miranda. "They should consider separated grantees, to oversee their own programs," she offers.

Can CHRI be responsible for dispensing \$3 million worth of Federal funds, and run several centers as well? And if it can't, are 900 schoolchildren going to miss out on an educational program that could make a difference in their entire adult lives.

What happened to the three million Headstart dollars? "That's the question!" exclaims Miranda. "I think we need a full-fledged investigation — and that's what parents want to see," she adds.

MULTICULTURAL AIDS HEALING

Mano Mano, the bilingual/bicultural AIDS services organization (see NMN July '89), will hold a "Multicultural Volunteer AIDS Training Program" for Latino volunteers from November 3 through December 9. Ten volunteers, ranging in age from 23 to 62, will take part in a month of "ethnic-specific training" (i.e. Latino), including "AIDS 101" and specific cultural issues, reports program director Carmen Chávez.

During the month of November, the American Indian AIDS Institute, Bayview-Hunter's Point Foundation, the Women's Institute for Mental Health and the Asia Pacific AIDS Coalition will also hold "ethnic-specific" training for their volunteers.

The training programs seek to "involve our communities in this epidemic — on an active level," explains Chávez. "We are giving them the tools of self-empowerment (tools) to take direct action — either through education or direct support services," Chávez adds. "There are a lot of Latinos (with AIDS/ARC) out there

who desperately need help."

All the groups will come together the last two weekends for full-day "cross-cultural training," says Chávez. These final sessions will include topics such as cross-cultural dynamics, death and dying, spirituality, sexuality and "AIDS as it relates to our communities". There will be a "Sexuality Panel", to deal with the issue of sexuality and the sexual spectrum "right off the bat," says Chávez. Strategies for behavior change will also be discussed.

"The idea is to create a linkage with other organizations as well," explains Chávez. "We are trying to fill in the gaps — and maximize services."

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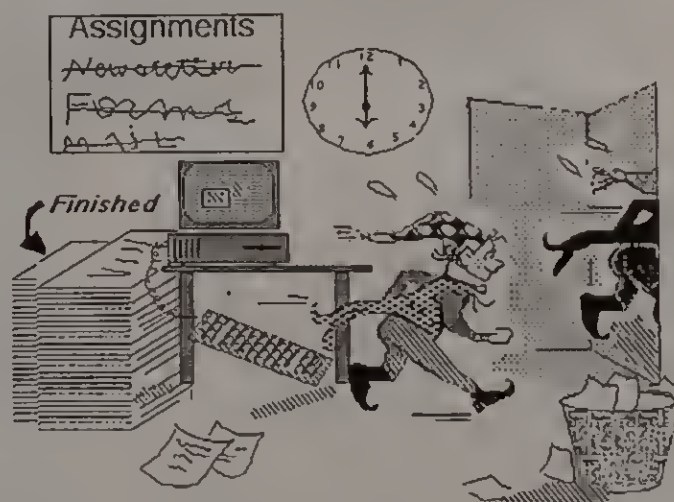
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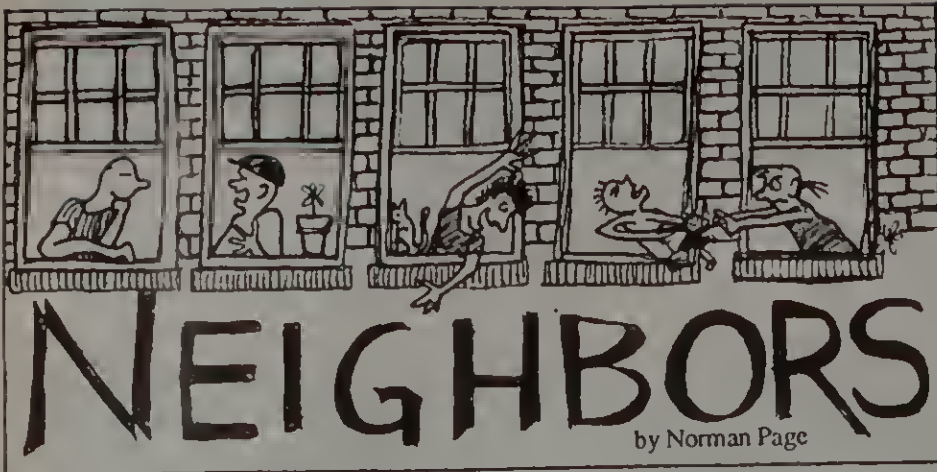
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We were more than twenty minutes late due to the rain and a longer than hell wait for BART, so we were expecting some rather dour faces on our friends who were waiting for us at Cuba Restaurant. Ha! Quite to the contrary. When we finally arrived, there they were, belly up to the bar, beers in hand and smiling, laughing faces all around. The magic touch had apparently just been applied by Cuba's owner and host, Enrico Lopez.

It was after 9 o'clock when we sat down to the table. Bug-eyed hungry would aptly describe the mood. Ah, but first a little vino to unwind before dindins. A 1984 Spanish Rioja. Smooth and vanilla-tasting, slightly fruity and maybe just a tad too mature. It's Enrico's personal favorite, he told us between sips and the ensuing compliments.

As we quaffed, Enrico continued on about the restaurant's background and history. Cuba has been on the corners of 16th and South Van Ness for twenty-three years, the same amount of time that Enrico himself has been in the restaurant biz. A few months ago, Enrico fulfilled a life-long goal and acquired Cuba from the previous owners. Now Enrico plans to improve the

quality and, above all, the freshness of its menu while adhering steadfastly to Cuba's long tradition: Cuba has always specialized in Cuban and Spanish fare and will continue to do so. Enrico promises us.

Hey Enrico, that's great. But let's eat, huh?

The vegetarians among us clamored for, er, suggested appetizers of yucca, fried plantains and garbanzo bean soup. The soup turned out to have pork in it, much to their chagrin. Large and lovely hunks of pork the size of a Chunky bar swimming in tender garbanzo beans and a delicious, albeit salty, veggie-packed broth. The sliced yucca was an intriguing dish: sweet potato consistency and a delicate flavor enhanced by a touch of garlic. They went over real well with the crowd. Me? I preferred the plantains fried to a perfect balance of crunchy and soggy golden brown with a creamy interior. Deliciously sweet and almost tangy flavors.

Because the dinner menu is cooked to order, we ordered the main courses while still sipping the Rioja. This means that the orders are cooked as they come into the kitchen. Nothing is made beforehand, which preserves ultimate freshness. In terms of Paella Valencia, that translates into thirty minutes cooking time.

I was admittedly quite impatient to try the Paella (\$13.95) because it had been a while since I had last tried it in southern Spain's Costa del Sol where I spent many an evening wandering among the central gardens and orange groves in search of that most satisfying of seafood dishes. And Cuba's version did not disappoint. Hearty and dense rice livened by tingling spices hold a mound of clams, fish and chicken within.

We also tried one of the evening's fish specials, a grilled halibut steak (\$10.95) smothered in the most colorful of vegetables and accompanied by short, swarthy steak fries. The halibut was a little overdone for my taste but we all loved the tasty broth made by the fish, vegetables and stock. Reminiscent of Mediterranean dishes gone by.

Overall, I thought the food was great, the prices reasonable for such freshness and quality and the hospitality worth coming back for.

When the dinner was over, we opened the front door onto a night of pouring rain. After such an utterly enjoyable evening, we could only laugh at the prospect of having to walk home.

Cuba Restaurant - 2886 16th Street at South Van Ness, 255-2396.

Congratulations go to Owen, Rick, Greg and Dave at Schooner Tavern for their First Anniversary of business celebrated this past September 30 at 26th and Valencia. Enjoyed many a great Giants game on the Big Screen and look forward to yet another Super

Bowl and perhaps another NBA playoff berth. Look for real cheap eats during Monday Night Football. And, by the way, let's bring hockey back to the Bay. I honestly don't think there's a more graceful game in the world.

Had dinner recently at Chau's Restaurant which is under new ownership these days but chooses to keep the same name. After over five years under Vietnamese ownership, Chau's changed hands on June 15, 1989 and is now under the caring guidance of owners/chefs Mr. Ng and Mr. Zhao, former chefs at a Szechuan restaurant on Hayes Street.

Traditional Mandarin Chinese style food is paramount on the menu (a Spanish translation of the menu appears at the back for your convenience) and appears to have quite a popularity among the dinner customers. We tried the Hot and Sour Soup (\$3.25); Eggplant in Garlic Sauce (\$3.80) which featured beefy slabs of fried eggplant in a tasty garlic-tinged gravy; Szechuan beef (\$4.50) a spicy combination of beef, onions and a sweet, brown gravy; and the Chef's Special Chow Fun (\$4.45) which incorporated thick Chinese noodles, green onions, chicken and sausage.

Chau's features several Rice Plates (ranging in price from \$2.80 to \$3.25) which are served all day and are a real economical treat for the old taste buds.

Chau's Restaurant, 2234 Mission Street, 863-5710. Open 7 days a week from 11:30 to 9:00.

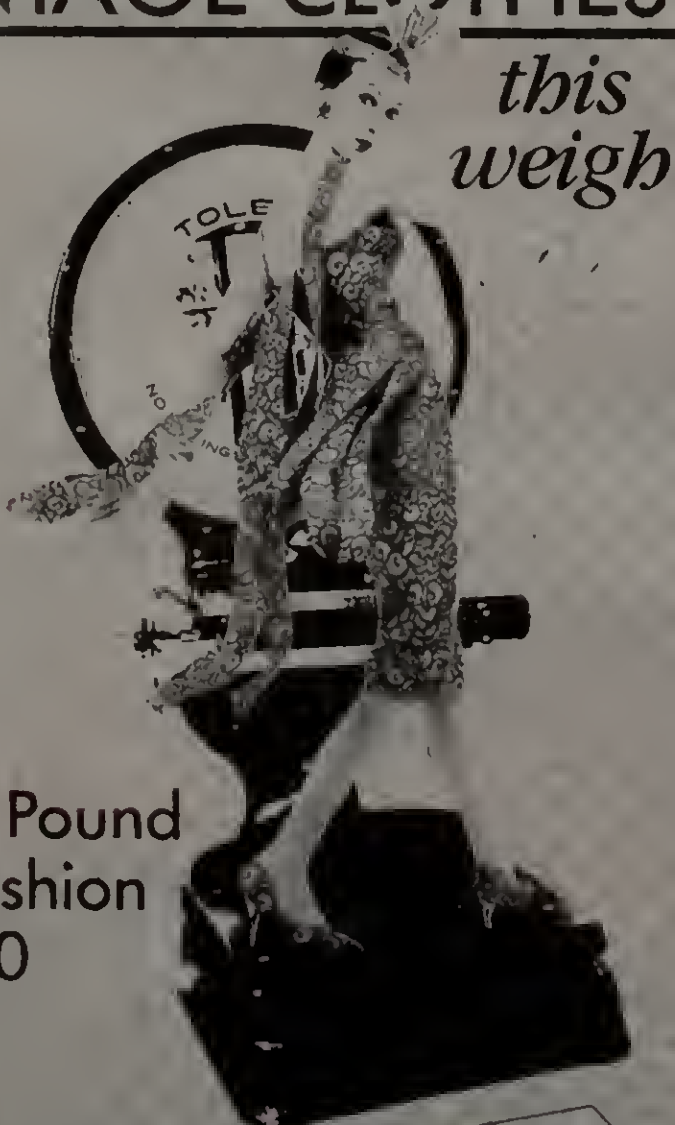


Chef Ito of Country Station

This month's North Mission Association Model Business Award goes to the Country Station at Mission Street between 17th and 18th Streets. The Sushi Cafe has been enjoying reasonable success after being publicized in both the North Mission

News and a recent restaurant review in the Bay Guardian. Congratulations! We're glad the Country Station has remained a friendly restaurant where customers' value is still of utmost importance.

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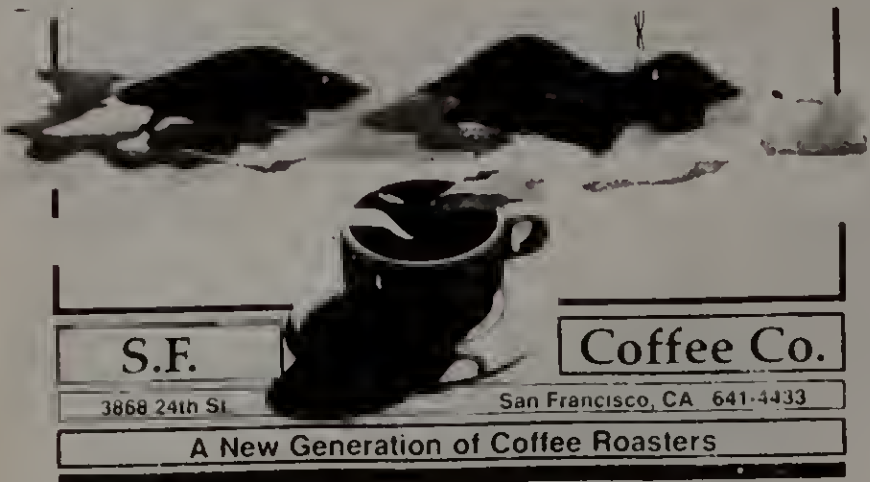
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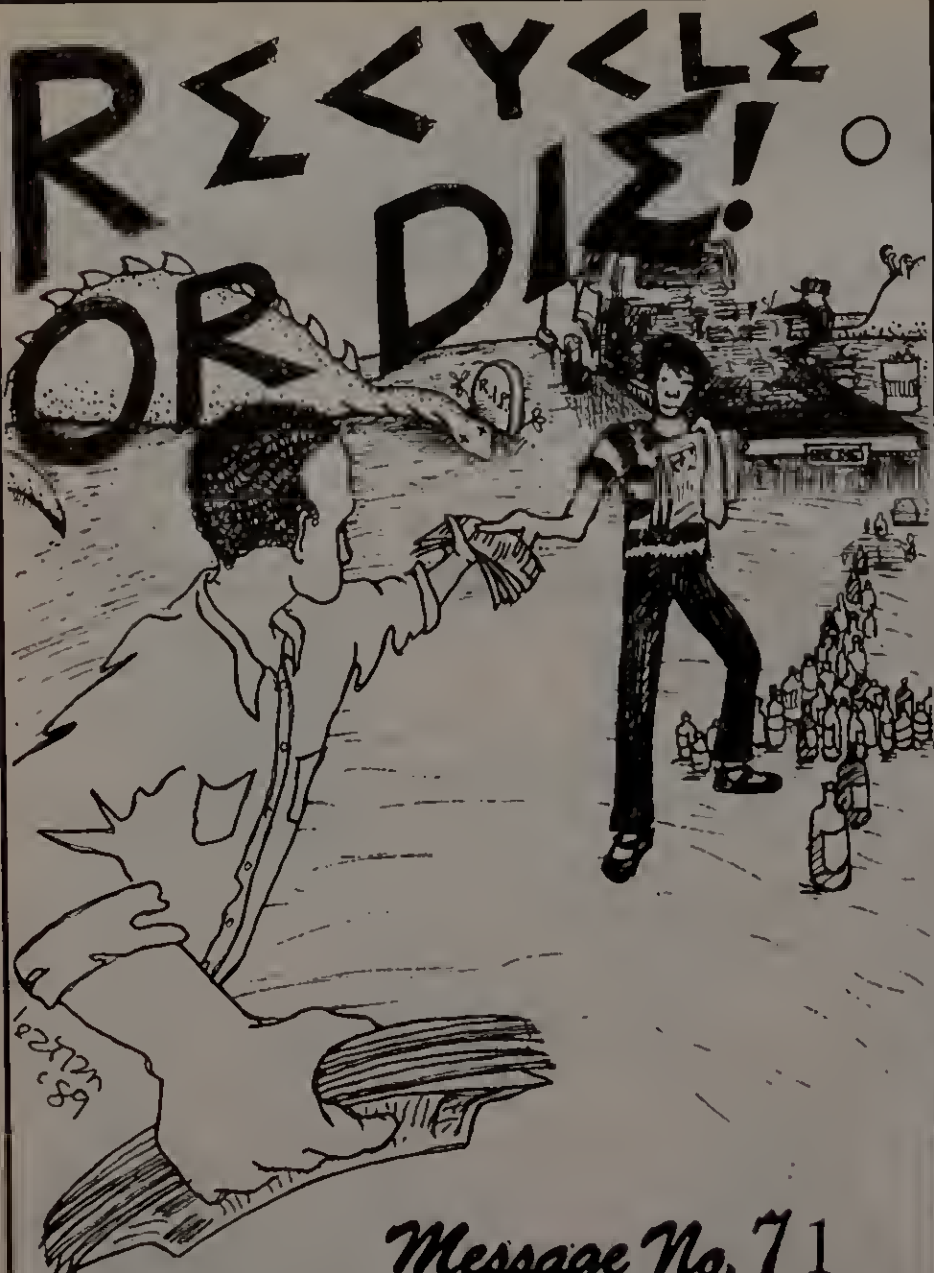
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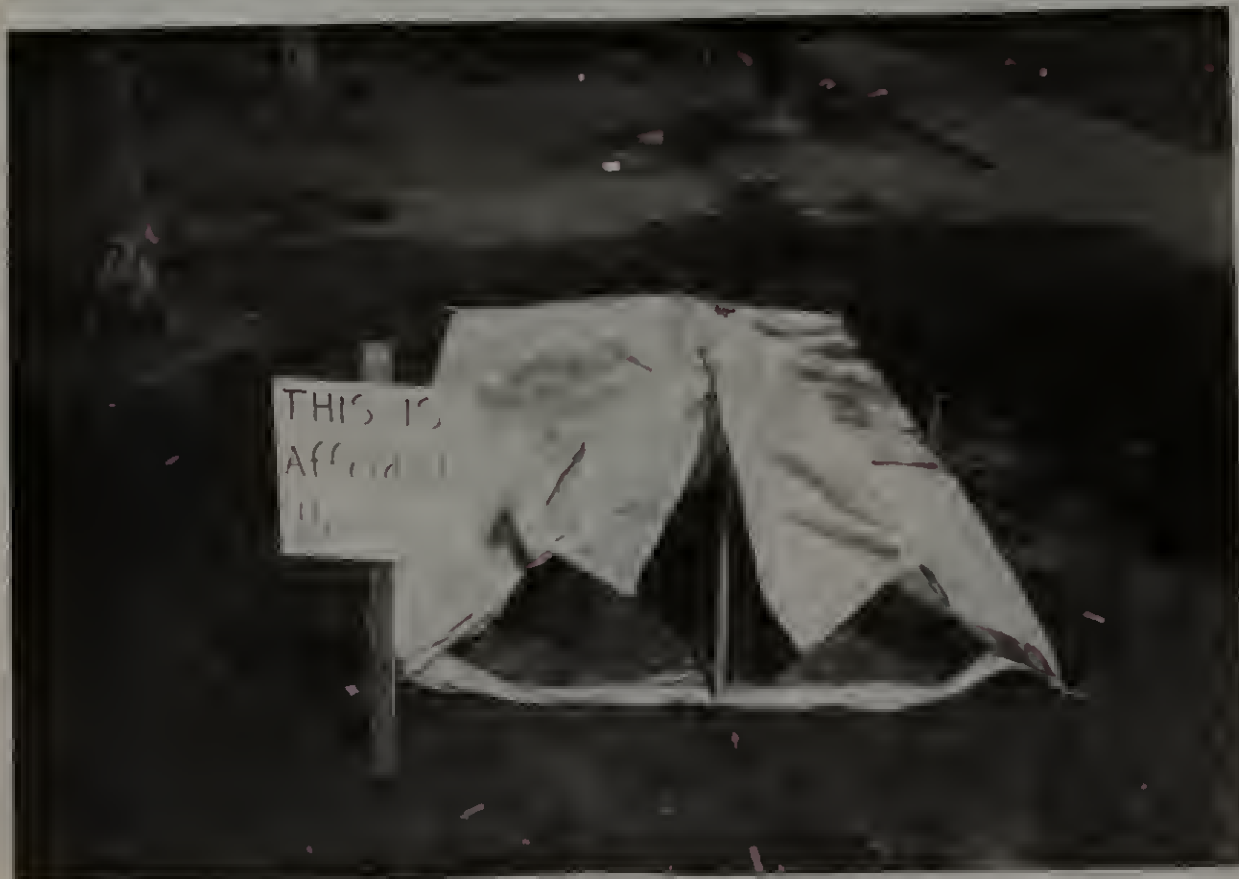
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TENANT TIMES

Volume X, Number 4

Newsletter of the San Francisco Tenants Union

Fall, 1989



Following the seizure of a homeless family's tent, at the Affordable Housing Fair in September, the SFTU set up its own tent to demonstrate the futility of finding affordable housing these days in San Francisco. No further arrests were made.

Quake Info for Tenants

The October 17th earthquake has added a new level to the housing problem in San Francisco—a problem already quite complex.

There are now thousands more homeless and thousands fewer housing units available. The housing problems we faced just recently: vacancy control, Props Q and R, etc., seem more trivial in face of earthquake problems we're facing today. Yet, they're not any less real, not any less important, yet are still pieces of how we address a problem made more severe by a natural disaster.

While transportation problems have received the most publicity in the media, the housing issues are probably more severe. Thousands of tenants have questions about what their rights are, since so many tenants are now dealing with apartments that were recently in fine shape, yet today have habitability problems, many serious.

Tenants now have a whole new language regarding their apartments: whether their building is "Red Tagged", "Yellow Tagged", or "Green Tagged." Red meaning the building is uninhabitable, yellow that tenants enter at their risk and green that the building is safe. These taggings are complicated, in that many tags are changing from day to day. Many more buildings have not been inspected (or tagged) at all.

Further, the Supervisors responded to the crisis by passing an amendment to the Rent Board Ordinance defining "temporary occupants" (people displaced by the earthquake) as people displaced by the earthquake. Landlords could enter into rental agreements with these "temporary occupants" which would be exempt from rent control laws during the duration of the "emergency". The idea is to facilitate finding housing for

Cont. on Page 4

Condo Conversions

No on Prop R!

The most dangerous Proposition facing tenants this November is Proposition R—the Condominium Conversion ordinance. Prop R, sponsored by landlord/realtor groups, would almost quadruple the number of condo conversions allowed in San Francisco. In 1993 it would eliminate all restrictions. The loss of these restrictions would take the city back eight years in the battle to save affordable housing. Again, thousands of tenants would face eviction and displacement as landlords convert their buildings.

The Current Condo Law

In 1982, condo conversions became such a problem in San Francisco that tenant activists mobilized to pass the existing Condominium Conversion Ordinance. The main features of this law are:

Cont. on Page 6

Rent Tax

No on Prop Q!

Proposition Q on this November's ballot is the landlord's answer to vacancy rent control. Vacancy rent control would save tenants millions of dollars in rent and help preserve what's left of affordable housing in San Francisco. Vacancy control will prevent the eviction and displacement of thousands of tenants who've lived in their apartments and neighborhoods for years. There is no profit for landlords in vacancy control and they have fought it vehemently for over ten years (see accompanying story). Faced with the prospect of a Mayor and Board of Supervisors who *might actually pass VC*, the landlords have dreamed up a red herring — Proposition Q.

The SFTU, every other tenant group, and virtually every elected official opposes Proposition Q. The danger with it is that it sounds good.

Proposition Q would set up a fund for affordable housing. A wonderful concept. However, it would also effectively prevent vacancy rent control from ever happening, and, it would be an affordable housing fund that's more PR than it is effective.

Divide this proposition into two issues: (1) How

Cont. on Page 6

Tenants Union Endorsements

PROPS H & I: YES

These two propositions would allow the transfer of unused accumulated sick leave and vacation credits to City employees who are determined to be catastrophically ill (e.g. from AIDS, Alzheimer's, etc.). Among other benefits these propositions would help these people stay in their homes and avoid eviction.

PROP O: NO

Prop O would repeal SF City Laws regulating campaign contributions, leaving much weaker state laws to regulate contributions to candidates. City laws restrict contributions to \$500 per person per election. State laws would allow up to \$5000 (for largest contributors). Special interests, particularly the landlord industry and the Realtors, have too much influence in City Hall via the campaign donation game as it is. We should be strengthening the City law, not repealing it!

PROPS Q & R: NO NO NO!

(SEE STORY ELSEWHERE IN THIS ISSUE)

PROP S: YES

A Yes vote on Prop S would enact the "Domestic Partnerships" legislation passed earlier by the SF Board of Supervisors. This legislation allows unmarried couples to formally establish their rela-

Cont. on Page 2

SFTU RECOMMENDS:

NOVEMBER 7, 1989 ELECTION

SF CITY PROPOSITIONS:

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| PROP H—Transfer of Sick Leave to Catastrophically Ill | YES |
| PROP I—Transfer of Vacation Credits to Catastrophically Ill | YES |
| PROP O—Repeal City Campaign Contribution Limits | NO |
| PROP Q—Tax to Fund "Affordable Housing" Tied to Vacancy Decontrol | NO!! |
| PROP R—Increase Condo Conversions/Evictions | NO NO NO! |
| PROP S—Adopt Domestic Partnership Ordinance | YES |
| PROP V—Improve Candlestick at Private Expense as Alternative to Downtown Stadium | YES |
| PROP W—Municipal Elections by Mail | YES |

REMEMBER:

ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY NOV. 7, 1989. POLLS OPEN 7AM to 8PM

LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE IS OCT. 10, 1989.

LAST DAY TO REQUEST ABSENTEE BALLOT IS OCT. 31, 1989.

EVERY TENANT IN SAN FRANCISCO MUST BE REGISTERED TO VOTE & MUST VOTE—NO EXCUSES.

THE TENANT VOTE IS TENANT POWER!

SFTU Endorsements

Cont. from Page 1

relationship as a "Domestic Partners," defined as two adults who live together and agree to be jointly responsible for their basic living expenses such as food and housing. It also establishes hospital visiting rights.

The SFTU sees this as a very basic human rights issue and is proud to join with all the other progressive groups in the city in turning back the reactionary forces that put this on the ballot by supporting a YES vote.

This is not merely a gay and lesbian issue, it involves senior couples, unmarried couples and others. The Tenants Union sees it also as a housing issue, of course. We are daily faced with an endless series of questions regarding the rights and obligations of non-traditional households vis-a-vis the rent law, evictions, etc. While the Domestic Partnership law will not solve all these "roommate" problems it would tend to promote more generally stable and legally sound renter household relationships for these couples.

(In a recent well-publicized case the highest court in New York state ruled that the surviving partner of a gay man was a family member under New York City's rent law.)

PROP V: YES

Prop V is a "Policy Statement" that makes it City "policy" to "explore" proposals to improve Candlestick Park at *private* expense instead of building a downtown baseball stadium. This would mean that City money could be used for other purposes including affordable housing, ending homelessness, enforcing the rent law, etc. Since Candlestick already exists, additional land that could be used for housing would not be required. Many problems cited in the downtown stadium plan are non-existent and much less with the Candlestick fix up: parking, access, neighborhood impact and traffic.

PROP W: YES

Another policy statement to encourage vote-by-mail elections if they maximize voter convenience, save money, and avoid fraud. The turnout of the tenant majority in SF has usually been estimated to be less than for homeowners—sometimes so low that the renter majority is really a minority of the voters in some elections. The renter population has a large number of people who find it difficult to get to the polls: because they work during the day at jobs they can't get away from; they are single parent households with jobs and childcare demands, they are elderly/disabled, etc. etc. Vote-by-Mail should help enfranchise these tenants.

Note on Endorsement Procedure

Since the SFTU did not have a membership endorsement meeting this time to vote on these election issues, because of the cost and the pressures of other organizational projects, the SFTU Steering Committee decided to endorse *only* those issues where there were *complete* consensus on the Steering Committee as to the position taken.

Rent Board Appoints Landlord



New Rent Board Director Joseph Grubb and Board of Supervisors President Harry Britt.

In a surprising move, Mayor Art Agnos together with the Rent Board—operating quickening behind closed doors—tapped Joseph P. Grubb, 41, a City housing inspector, to be Executive Director of the SF Rent Stabilization Board.

Grubb, a fourteen-year veteran of the SF Bureau of Building Inspection (B.B.I.), is also a substantial landlord. He owns (or has part interest) in four rental buildings which are worth an estimated \$2-3 million (now perhaps more) and has thirty-six residential units overall. He has an obvious conflict of interest, because, as the Executive Director of the Rent Board he will be dealing with citywide rent policies/regulations and with hiring of staff that will impact on his investments. And in fact the City Attorney has ruled that he must divest himself of those properties that constitute a conflict.

Very surprisingly, (or perhaps not considering the bizarre way the Rent Board usually works) the Rent Board in interviewing candidates to fill the \$57,000/year post held by non-landlord-homeowner Ricardo Hernandez for many years, didn't bother (or neglected) to ask any of the candidates about their real estate investments. It was only after their "unanimous" recommendation of Grubb to the Mayor that his holdings were apparently discovered. Enter the City Attorney.

Grubb was the Chief Housing Inspector for the Housing Inspection Division (H.I.D.) of B.B.I. in

the SF Department of Public Works. He was responsible for twenty field supervisors, four seniors, and a support staff of thirteen enforcing the City's Housing Code for existing residential buildings, including ordinances dealing with smoke detectors, security, heat and energy. He has had no experience in administering rent control ordinances, or any experience in the rent control field (other than of course being a landlord).

At a Mayor's Office reception in his honor, Grubb heard Agnos say of him "...I heard from landlords who said 'this is a fair person, we trust him.' I heard from the most active and passionate renters who said 'this person is fair and we trust him'." "I don't know how long he can maintain that," Agnos laughingly added.

Who were the "most active and passionate renters" who lobbied for Grubb? None could be found, certainly no one in the SF Tenants Union, none in Old St. Mary's Housing Committee. Only political operative Mitchell Omerberg admitted that he told the Mayor's Office that Grubb "seemed to have a very good reputation."

(Omerberg may be remembered for bad-mouthing Prop. U, the vacancy control initiative on the Nov. '88 ballot that had the official support of virtually all tenant groups.)

Grubb owns or has part interest in rental buildings on Fulton (Octavia), on Bush (Broderick), on Oak

Cont. on Page 7

LANDLORD PROBLEMS?

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More Rent Board Rules Changes



The Rent Board has been struggling to change a batch of Rules and Regulations that enforce the city's Rent Law since the beginning of 1989. There has been endless debate for weeks at the Rent Board Tuesday night meetings on these rules changes. There have been shouting matches, windy right wing diatribes from the landlords reps on the commission, and confused discussion and rediscussions of proposals and counterproposals. There have been special meetings and communications with the Mayor as the Rent Board has come under extreme pressure from the SF Apartment Association. The resulting changes are very disappointing when compared with the hopes for the new "liberal Agnos" Rent Board appointed in 1988. The tenant representatives on the Board have in general wimped-out in a series of deals with Pres. Ruth Astle.

Recent changes include the extension of the weak 10% cap on yearly capital improvement pass-throughs, further weakened by amendment; allowing landlords who "round-up" rent increases to evade the clear intent of the rent law and evade the "null & void" provision. The definition of Substantial Rehab has been changed. In another bad change supported by the "tenant commissioners," the cap on rent increases justified by the scary "comparable rent" loophole was lifted in a somewhat more limited provision. The rules were adjusted to reflect the fee legislation (see story this issue).

For a copy of the SFTU official position and the Rent Board's final action contact SFTU office.

Cops Crash Housing Rally

Two hundred participants in the Housing Now! rally, sponsored by the Bay Area Housing Now! Coalition, which included a broad range of tenant, homeless, progressive, and neighborhood groups. Coalition members included groups such as the SFTU, Homeless Task Force, Gray Panthers, All People's Congress, Voter Revolt, Food Not Bombs, and Nuremberg Actions. On October 1, the Coalition got a down-and-dirty lesson in class warfare dished out to them by San Francisco police.

The October 1st march and rally was called to express local solidarity with the October 7th gathering in Washington calling for a commitment to end homelessness and fund affordable housing.

Participants gathered at the Federal Building to march to the Civic Center, some carrying banners and signs such as that of a crumpled can of Budweiser and the slogan "This HUD's for You" (referring to the scandal which drove HUDster Sam Pierce to take the Fifth Amendment re the likelihood of criminal activity).

The SFPD apparently saw the march as criminal activity.

As marchers reached McAllister, some spilled over onto the street whereupon they were attacked by police who arrested two members of Oakland's Homeless Union.

An enraged crowd poured into the intersection as a half dozen police vehicles converged from all directions (implying a plan for just such event). The police leaped out and began beating and shoving marchers, one hysterical cop pushing an elderly wheelchair-bound woman and screaming at her to get back on the sidewalk.

Amazingly, the only other person arrested at the site was Food Not Bombs organizer Keith McHenry, the subject of numerous run-ins with the SFPD. McHenry has a 2 million dollar lawsuit pending against the boys in blue.

As the police riot intensified, curious wannabe-attorneys filtered out of Hastings Law Library to observe the beatings that cops such as one Officer Gardner (badge #1450) were gleefully dishing out. Ron Holladay, a St. Anthony's employee and one of the rally organizers notes that "normally, police will get on the loudspeaker and tell people to get off the streets" before attacking. This time, they didn't bother to do so.

Monday's papers included statements by unidentified officers that they were assaulted first but no such charges have been filed by press time.

Police harassment continued during the Civic Center rally. At one point, a flying wedge of cops charged through the crowd to confiscate soup and fruit salad being served to those attending.

When word arrived that participants including the wife of an Oakland member of the homeless union nabbed earlier, were being arrested as they left the rally site a convoy system was hastily formed to escort people through the gauntlet of policemen who waited across Polk Street or lurked in nearby alleys.

The attack reinforced the contention of most speakers that America is rapidly breaking apart into two factions, separate and unequal.

"The mighty forces of this nation are arrayed against poor people who are not organized," warned Charles Redmond, an elderly man who is going to the march on Washington.

In a particularly poignant moment, some Southeast Asian children presented bags of apples, gum and candy to those going to Washington in full view of the angry police across the street.

"The candy and the gum is to make your journey sweeter," one said.

Speakers included longtime housing activist Buck Bagot, and entertainers including Ladies Against Women, the Freedom Song Network and Lee Goland, whose song supporting Vacancy Control before the Board of Supervisors has been receiving a lot of "airplay" on local news stations.

The police riot, far from intimidating the Housing Now! coalition, energized the rally, educating some in the reality of a class struggle they may have been unaware of. Concluding a poem written several days before the rally, Jack Hirschman inveighed against authority whether club-in-the-face brutality or the stealthy pilfering of Washington housing bureau-rats:

"Those pigs are worse than the rotten blue pork at the bottom of garbage-can Los Angeles. Hungry men and women never should have to be subjected to their poisonously filthy mold!"

Rally organizers, including the SFTU, are in the process of deciding what action to take against the City. Witnesses to the police riot especially photographers should call 282-5525.

by Brian Dooban

Fee At Last!

The best-kept SF City Hall secret to date remains the new fee to completely fund the Rent Board.

This fall, tenants throughout the City will suddenly find themselves being asked to pay a small yearly fee to support their friendly local Rent Board.

However, tenants filing petitions at the Rent Board will no longer have to cough up fifteen hucks.

Earlier, the Mayor's Office (with the Rent Board concurring) almost seemed to steal our long-standing suggestion to independently fund the chronically under-monied Rent Stabilization law via a "registration" fee for each rent-controlled unit in the city. (Note that this new fee turns out to be not a real vacancy control style registration fee, as the current rent for each unit is not required to be registered.)

But lo and behold: moving rapidly and very quietly, the fee (at last) cleared the Board of Supervisors Finance Committee, was passed by the full Board of Supes and signed by the Mayor on August 2nd.

The Board of Supervisors has agreed to increase the budget of the Rent Board to 1.3 million, an increase of about 50% and to impose for one year, at least, a "fee for service" on all rent stabilized units. This fee, due by October 1, not legally a tax, would (theoretically) totally liberate the financially starved Rent Board from yearly pinnacles previously doled out from the City's General Fund.

The most obvious result of this minor largess will be the projected move of the Rent Board from their current cramped digs in a crumbling old school on Fell Street (probably to a new building on UN plaza), more staff, and a shift to three full-time "professional" hearing officers, instead of many part-timers.

Presently at the 170 Fell Street slum, stressed tenants fearing the loss of their homes are jammed cheek-to-jowl with irate landlords seeking a down payment on a new Mercedes.

Landlords would be required to pay this variable yearly fee of \$6-\$8 dollars (capped at \$8 by the Supes) but could turn around and "seek recovery of the fee from the tenant." If the tenant fails to "remit the requested sum within sixty days" the owner could deduct the amount of the fee from

the next interest payment owed on the tenant's security deposit.

Under the scheme enacted, the landlord would be legally "liable for payment of the fee... whether or not the owner seeks recovery or in fact does recover from the tenant." The tenant would have only a "duty" to pay the fee to the landlord if the landlord requests in writing (with the copy of the Tax Collector's bill).

SF Admin. Code, Sec. 37A.6.

If the tenants don't do their "duty" **nothing in the ordinance gives the landlord any rights to evict.** This fee is not part of the rent. Nor can the City impose any fine or punishment on a non-paying tenant under this ordinance. The only recourse given a stiffed landlord is tapping the security deposit interest owed but often not paid by the landlord to the tenant. (Thus, a tenant with a security deposit of \$1,000 is due \$50/yr interest—reduced to \$42/yr if the \$8 Rent Board fee is deducted.)

Meanwhile, as this legislation goes into effect, all filing fees at the Rent Board are to be abolished starting **September 1, 1989.** Thus, tenants would no longer have to pay the \$15 filing fee for various tenant petitions, including appeals. The same would be true for landlords—except that fees for estimators in Capital Improvement cases would be retained.

On June 21st, the Board of Supervisors Finance Committee, a large posse of oppressed landlords and downtrodden realtors attempted to ambush the Rent Board budget increase and the new fee legislation. Only one tenant representative (from the Tenant Union, of course!) spoke.

Most of the rental industry representatives, especially the troops from the Apartment House Association, opposed the budget/fee because, in truth, they really favor a Rent Board budget/fee of **zero!** Others, especially realtors associated with the Coalition for Better Housing, saw this fee as an ominous step towards the horrors of a Vacancy Control registration/fee system and a bigger, stronger more effective Rent Board—which they would like to keep small, funky and harmless.

Asked by Finance Committee Chair Nancy Walker about the truth of the avalanche of claims of rude treatment of landlords by the Rent Board, Rent

Board Commissioner/Haight St. realtor/Landlord Tim Carrico was trapped. Commissioner Carrico had to admit that many landlords approached the Rent Board with "a chip on their shoulders" which led to an unfortunate downward spiral of civility.

It's hard to imagine why owners could honestly—ideology aside—object to this fee because it is passed on to tenants or deducted from the 5% interest due on security deposits. (Could it be that landlords are not actually paying the 5% interest?) It would be better, we can argue, for landlords to absorb this tiny fee—like all other fees they pay—into their overall operating and maintenance budget. After all, they are getting a very generous automatic 4% rent increase, year after year, to more than cover such cost increases as this.

But that's not the way it works. This is the way: the Board of Supes determines the budget of the Rent Board, the City then determines the amount

Cont. on Page 7

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Agnos Unable to Deliver on VC

Vacancy Rent Control is officially dead once again as Mayor Art Agnos admitted during his State of the City speech on October 2 that he did not have the six votes needed for his ill fated proposal.

The omen for its death came on September 28 when the Board of Supervisors finally held its hearing for public testimony on Agnos's version of vacancy control—a version the SFTU has been critical of and has said it will not support. At that Hearing Supervisor Nelder asked a number of puzzling questions (along the lines of how many angels can dance on the head of a pin) and not receiving the answers she wanted, it was delayed for 'further study' until December. Now it seems that hearing may not happen. Besides Nelder apparent reluctance to support vacancy control, Supervisor Willie Kennedy's support seems gone, as evidenced by her sponsoring the landlords' Proposition Q on the ballot; Prop Q is proposed as an alternative to VC and would effectively scuttle vacancy control. The search for the Holy Grail continues.

It could be for the best that this weak version of vacancy control won't pass. The Supervisors' support for tenants will be strengthened when Hallinan can finally vote, and if his vote still doesn't bring vacancy control, who knows what next November's election will bring? It is likely that tenants will mobilize again to place a vacancy control initiative on the ballot once again. Last year's Proposition U was close, especially considering how it was outspent \$800,000 to \$20,000. Each year, voters become more and more aware of how the lack of vacancy control places everyone in increased danger of eviction; anyone who has looked for an apartment recent is certainly aware of how exorbitant the rents are on vacant apartments. In fact, the Association of Bay Area Governments issued a report on October 2 (the same day Agnos announced VC was dead) finding that vacant apartments in San Francisco now average \$1,023 a month for two-bedrooms. This is up \$123 from ABAG's study a year ago. Besides launching an initiative campaign, tenants will certainly be targeting any Supervisors who are up for re-election who have not supported vacancy control, as well as Mayor Agnos, should he not come through on his campaign promise to pass VC.

Certainly, tenants are frustrated by having

vacancy control constantly dangled in front of them and tenant activists are discouraged by this continual struggle on one issue when the housing problem in San Francisco has so many facets to it—homelessness, residential hotel conversions, condo conversions, tenants of slumlords who need help organizing, and so on. At some point the city could well be looking at tactics including more direct action or civil disobedience. That the city already fears this is exemplified by how the city responded to a small march calling for more housing (see Housing Now! story elsewhere in this issue).

The frustration is holstered by the hard political reality that Mayor Agnos *could* have the six votes if he really wanted to. Politics involves a lot of give and take, as well as arm twisting. When

Quake Information for Tenants

from Page 1

people left homeless by the earthquake, yet there is much potential for this law being abused or extended beyond the "emergency". Given the severity of San Francisco's housing problem and the already inflated rents, it's puzzling that this was the first action the city took to address the added housing problems resulting from the quake.

Tenant advocates are trying to sort out all the complexities of 'earthquake law' these days; most of tenant law has been written based on landlord negligence. Since an earthquake is not any person's fault, there are many questions and confusion about what tenant's rights are. As best as we can, we'll offer some information:

Notify Your Landlord—In any case, write to your landlord and notify him/her of *any* problems in your apartment. You need to let her/him know of any problems needing fixing. Documenting current and potential problems is also important in case of any future dispute. Take photos or otherwise take steps to verify your apartment's condition (e.g. witnesses).

Yellow and Red Tags—You may not need to pay rent. Call the SFTU or some other tenants group before you make any decision. If you have a "Red Tag", you probably don't need to pay rent since the city has determined your apartment is uninhabitable; if you have a Yellow or Green tag, it's more debatable. You have rights, yet you can be subjected to eviction proceedings if you with-

needed—and when he wants to—Agnos has shown an ability to do this to get the Supervisor's votes he needs. Witness the ballpark, cutbacks in city services to reduce budget deficits, domestic partners, etc. The clear fact is, Agnos really does not care about vacancy control that much: if it comes to his desk, he'll sign it, but he's not going out of his way to help it get there. Up for re-election, he'll certainly claim he did his best, but the truth is he didn't and he hacked off to the landlord-realtor interests and money, breaking a campaign process and alienating the very people who elected him. It shouldn't surprise him—but probably will—when the election comes: the landlords-realtors will abandon him to Kopp, while the disenfranchised tenants back no-one or a third candidate.

hold rent. As noted above there is no black and white answer to this question.

Tenancy Rights—Under Section 12.19 of the SF Rent Board's Rules and Regulations, a landlord must offer a tenant her/his apartment back to them following a "fire or other disaster" at the same terms and conditions. Rent can be increased to cover landlord's costs above what he/she may be reimbursed by insurance. If you are under rent control, this means your landlord is obligated to rent the apartment back to you and not use the earthquake as an excuse to remove your apartment from rent control.

Having No Utilities—If you don't have utilities, yet could live in the apartment, your right to take action such as withholding rent is again uncertain. Tenants have a right to an apartment with utilities such as heat, electricity. Yet law has been written based on landlord negligence; a situation like an earthquake is not necessarily landlord negligence.

Landlord Liability—Tenants, in most cases, cannot claim damages against their landlord for damage from the earthquake. An earthquake, like a fire can be, is a natural disaster. Like a fire, though, if the tenant can claim the damage was caused by landlord **negligence**, then s/he could claim damages. Regardless, tenants should file any claims for damages against their landlord's insurance company because the company *may* pay.

Getting Your Home Inspected—If you have

questions about the safety of your home, you should call the Bureau of Building Inspection (558-6220). BBI is, obviously, responding slowly to complaints these days, so you may need to wait. You—and tenants collectively in your building—can hire a civil engineer for your own inspection.

In General—Before you take any action, contact your landlord and see if you can negotiate: s/he may be willing to offer you reduced rent or to allow you to break a lease. Find that out first. Also, don't take any action without talking to a tenant organization or a tenant attorney.

Lastly, the earthquake has made times—and housing—further difficult. Tenants need to be aware that there is great potential here for landlords to abuse our rights. While we all want to cooperate right now, it's important to realize this era of good feeling may soon disappear. The bottom line is that landlording is a business and tenants should remember we have rights and work to assert those rights.



Robert J. Sheppard And Associates Attorneys-At-Law

- Renters Rights
- Tenant Advocacy
- Homeowners' Needs
- Real Estate Negligence

Effective Solutions by an Experienced Law Firm

414 Gough Street, Suite 3, San Francisco, 861-6600

Tenant Attorney

Stephen M. Mackouse

Attorney-at-Law

415-552-0702 77 McAllister Street
San Francisco, CA 94102



A GENERAL CIVIL PRACTICE INCLUDING:

- TENANT ADVOCACY
- PERSONAL INJURY CLAIMS
- DIVORCE AND CHILD CUSTODY
- BANKRUPTCY
- CONTRACTS FOR LOVERS, CO-OWNERS, ROOMMATES, CO-PARENTS AND BUSINESS PARTNERS
- WILLS AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

A COMMUNITY LAW OFFICE RUN BY WOMEN

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CALIFORNIA 94110

(415) 552-1136

THE NEW

DRAMATIC CHRONICLE

"WE WRITE WHAT WE LIKE -- AND WE PRINT IT"

V. IV Number 1

PUBLISHED BY THE JULIAN THEATRE OF SAN FRANCISCO

NOVEMBER 1989



SPECIAL POST-EARTH-QUAKE EDITION

The Arts Are Alive!

ADVICE TO AUDIENCES --

Inside this issue of The New Dramatic Chronicle you'll find a listing of a lot of activities going on during the month of November and into December in San Francisco's Mission and South of Market districts. We don't have the big culture houses in our neighborhoods, but that's just as well - despite all you read in the papers or view on the tube, smaller is safer when it comes to buildings and places of assembly. Had this relatively middling-sized quake happened three hours later, the falling light grid at the Geary Theatre would have killed some people in the orchestra section, and some opera-goers would have been bonked by chunks of falling plaster. No amount of fur would have protected them.

But the real death toll would have been (or will be) the trampling of each other right afterward, especially if things are falling.

San Francisco's smaller theatres and galleries that are open again (and almost all are) either came through with no damage, or have been inspected and found sturdy. It's a good idea, for your own mental health, to go out among other people and have a few laughs or a good catharsis together. The

**TABLEAU OF THE DEAD
DAY OF THE DEAD EXHIBIT**

-- To Page 3

EARTHQUAKEY TIMES,

SAN FRANCISCO, OCT. 8, 1906



From the Editor -

This issue of The New Dramatic Chronicle is dedicated to Tommy Roberts, The Puppet Man, an old friend of a great many San Franciscans. It was great to run into him at the opening of the Soviet Children's Books exhibit in the Gallery of the South of Market Cultural Center, where it had been moved because of the closed Main Library. Tommy was one of the true workhorses of the early Neighborhood Arts Program, when I was programming director of that wonderful institution from 1967 to 1970.

He'd show up anywhere we asked - arriving by Muni with his puppets in a bag if we didn't have a way to pick him up at his Tenderloin hotel - in any park, playground or school where entertainment was scheduled. He'd been doing it before, and he's kept on since, but I remember so fondly how he would enchant everyone in every neighborhood, young and old, of every color and kind, with his simple puppets and marionettes.

"Here's my phone number and address," he told me as he autographed the accompanying poem. "My friends better call me pretty soon. I survived the earthquake, but I don't know how long I'll be around." His phone is 771-2446. His address: Antonia Manor #712, 180 Turk Street, San Francisco 94102. Wishing you no more quakes, but many more birthdays, Tommy!

Jazz In The City

"Not just another jazz festival, Jazz in the City is a celebration of jazz as art." - Derk Richardson, SF Bay Guardian

It's not too late to still go catch some great music this weekend as the 7th Annual Jazz in the City festival comes to a close. Here's what's happening:

Nov. 2 - YOUTH IN JAZZ The Berkeley High School Jazz Ensemble and the Malcolm X Elem. School Jazz Ensemble will perform at noon at the Justin Herman Plaza. It is free.

Nov. 3 - THE SONGS OF GEORGE GERSHWIN Several different artists will play at 8 pm at Bimbo's 365 Club, 1025 Columbus Ave. at Chestnut.

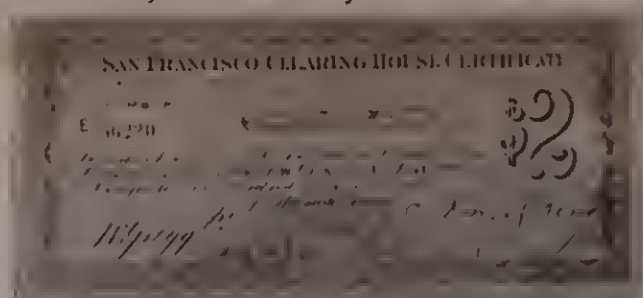
Nov. 4 - LATIN JAZZ/DANCE Salsa Caliente and Benny Velarde and his Super Combo will perform at Bimbo's. 9 pm to 1 am.

NOV. 5 - JAZZ IN FLIGHT The Grand Masters of Bay Area Jazz and the Rudy Salvini Big Band will entertain the folks at the Great American Music Hall 859 FGarrell St. It starts at 8 pm.

Advance ticket sales (for all but the 11/2 free concert) are available at all BASS/Ticketmaster outlets. (415) 762-2277. All seating is general admission. For information, call (415) 864 - 5449 or drop by 141 10th St. Jazz in the City



African elephant.
Loxodonta africana
(10 ft. high at the shoulder)



OTHER THINGS TO DO POST-EARTHQUAKE (PEQ)

GET OUT OF TOWN - If you've got the wheels and can time it to avoid all the other traffic going or coming. One great little town, below the snowline on Highway 49 in the Sierra foothills, is San Andreas. You can stay at the Black Bart Inn, near where he robbed his last Wells Fargo stagecoach. Eat dinner at the BBI's dining room. The all-you-can-eat buffet is just \$10, and it's excellent. The waitress are adult and lovely. If Connie waits your table, give her your recipe for Veal Scallopino, as she'll try to talk you out of the one they serve - with good reason. Everything else is 5 stars.

SEE A SHOW OUT OF TOWN - The other great little town, right near the epicenter of the October quake but totally unharmed, is San Juan Bautista, where El Teatro Campesino is performing two delightful and wise one-act plays by 20-year old playwright Josefina Lopez, through November 19. Everyone is fine in both plays, but Vilma Silva's portrayal of the protagonist in "Simply Maria" is one of those fresh, astoundingly near perfect performances you'll always remember. And I mean always - she's like a non-phony early Susan Strasburg or Audrey Hepburn. A+. Ernesto Ravetto, of Teatro Nuestro, is very funny and pseudo-macho in both.

BUY A BOOK - especially a recycled one at one of the good used bookstores on Valencia or 16th Street, at the Community Thrift's book excellent expanded book section, or over at Aardvark on Church.

GO TO A MOVIE - "Our" movie palaces came through in good shape, and have good schedules in November, especially the Independent Film Festival at the Roxie.

GET REAL NEWS ON THE RADIO - by listening to the Mission based KALW-FM, 88.5 Mhz. They've had to abandon their home at John O'Connell School temporarily, with temporary studios at KYA-KSFO, but their place on the dial is the same, and Wells Fargo has given them a grant from what was left in the bank after Black Bart.

Light

Light upon the waters
Light upon the land-
Rays reflected from canyon walls
Caressing the desert sand
Sun light - bronze gold
Flecking flowers, leaves,
And redwoods - centuries old
Moonlight - silver dusted from
afar
Changing barren homes
Into Shang-ri-la
Evening star
Pulsing like a blue white heart -
Drawing loved ones closer
Through a continent apart
Spirit light in a little child's eyes
Ages old - yet, always young and
wise.
Sunlight, moonlight, starlight
Lovelight, spirit light
May all the light of all the world
Make the coming months -
The coming years -
For you and yours
Eternally bright

by Tom Roberts
(The Puppet Man)



ROLL THE PRESSES

Of course it won't happen again, but shortly after the 1906 quake the nation's economy also shook off its foundation. This city and others took to printing their own money. Shown is a \$2 bill, just right for the bridge or - maybe soon - a bus ride. Too little for the ferry in these inflated times.

Mark Twain Predicted Quakes

A fairly severe quake on October 8, 1865 caused, according to the California Academy of Sciences, "the demolition of parts of the parapet walls erected above roofs . . . and fracture of walls in insecure buildings and heavy buildings erected on made lands of the city front." Twain wrote an Earthquake Almanac for the Dramatic Chronicle (Oct., 1865), "At the instance of several friends who feel a boding anxiety to know beforehand what sort of phenomena we may expect the elements to exhibit during the next month or two, and who have lost all confidence in the various patent medicine almanacs, because of the unaccountable reticence of those works concerning the extraordinary event of the 8th inst., I have compiled the following almanac expressly for this latitude:

Oct. 17 - Weather hazy; atmosphere murky and dense. An expression of profound melancholy will be observable on most countenances.

Oct. 18 - Slight earthquake. Countenances grow more melancholy.

Oct. 19 - Look out for rain. It will be absurd to look in for it. The general depression of spirits increased.

Oct. 20 - More weather.

Oct. 21 - Same.

Oct. 22 - Light winds, perhaps. If they blow, it will be from the "east'ard, or the nor'ard, or the west'ard, or the south'ard," or from some general direction approximating more or less to these points of the compass or otherwise. Winds are uncertain - more especially when they blow from whence they cometh and whither they listeth.

N.B. -- Such is the nature of winds.

Oct. 23 - Mild, balmy earthquakes.

Oct. 24 - Shaky.

Oct. 25 - Occasional shakes, followed by light showers of bricks and plastering. N. B. Stand from under.

Oct. 26 - Considerable phenomenonal atmospheric foolishness. About this time expect more earthquakes, but do not look out for them, on account of the bricks.

Oct. 27 - Universal despondency, indicative of approaching disaster. Abstain from smiling, or indulgence in humorous conversation, or exasperating jokes.

(80 to 3)

Dear New Dramatic Chronicle,

We need your help like never before. Thankfully, most of San Francisco and the Bay Area's arts organizations have suffered little physical damage from the recent earthquake. However, a more devastating and potentially long-range effect has come to our attention.

Attendance figures and ticket sales for arts events are severely depressed. Patrons are unaware that theatres, museums, and other arts facilities are open. If this attendance trend is not reversed right away, this frightening situation could jeopardize the very existence of San Francisco's vibrant and internationally envied arts scene.

Enclosed is an announcement we hope you will make to your readers.

Claire N. Isaacs,

Director of Cultural Affairs, City of San Francisco

"The arts make us laugh, they make us cry, they make us look at ourselves and each other in new and different ways. How the arts enrich our lives is immeasurable. San Francisco arts groups need your support now more than ever. Most San Francisco arts groups are open for business--support San Francisco's rich array of performances and world-class galleries and museums today with your attendance. For information about current arts events, call your favorite arts group or box office."

The Moon In Perigee

*Theory Says Next Likely Quake
Nov. 12 or January 4 - 7*

No, it's not the name of a lost play of Eugene O'Neill; it's the position the moon was in three days before the quake. It means that it was closest to the Earth in the moon month. It was also reportedly the closest it's been in years, and some scientists think that the pull of the Moon and the Sun on Earth's plates is strong enough to be a factor in earthquakes. For your information, the next moon perigees are November 12 (Black Bart Day, also the birthday of the SF - Oakland Bay Bridge, 1936) and December 10 of this year.

If you're into this theory, there's a doozie for you right off in 1990. The Sun's perigee for the year is midnight, January 3-4 and the moon swings in to join it at 2 pm on the 7th. That Thursday to Sunday might be a nice time to take a little trip to, say, the middle of the ocean or the Nevada desert.

WHAT IF THE NEXT ONE IS THE BIG ONE?

He laughs last whose laugh lasts. -Cynic's Calendar

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BAY BRIDGE! - November 12, 1935. How about a Thanksgiving Bridge Walk before it reopens? Too scare - eeee!? Dare you. Like the cars, Oakland-bound on the lower, Golden City-bound upper. Too bad it's too late for Halloween.

GREAT ENTERTAINMENT IDEA. Tell your own PEQ Story. On November 13 (Full Moon) the Eureka Theatre at 16th & Harrison is holding a benefit, with people telling their own stories. Some funny, some not. If you like to tell tales, take your PEQ-er and get over there. Call ahead, in case the date or the theatre shifts before then - 558-9898 from 1 to 6 Tuesdays through Saturdays.

(Twain - from 2 -)

Oct. 28 - Misery, dismal forebodings and despair. Beware of all discourse - a joke uttered at this time would produce a popular outbreak.

Oct. 29 - Beware!

Oct. 30 - Keep dark!

Oct. 31 - Go slow!

Nov. 1 - Terrific earthquake. This is the great earthquake month. More stars fall and more worlds are slathered around carelessly and destroyed in November than in any other month of the twelve.

Nov. 2 - Spasmodic but exhilarating earthquakes, accompanied by occasional showers of rain, and churches and things.

Nov. 3 - Make your will.

Nov. 4 - Sell out.

Nov. 5 - Select your "last words". Those of John Quincy Adams will do, with the addition of a syllable, thus; "this is the last of earthquakes."

Nov. 6 - Prepare to shed this mortal coil.

Nov. 7 - Shed.

Nov. 8 - The sun will rise as usual, perhaps; but if he does he will doubtless be staggered some to find nothing but a large round hole eight thousand miles in diameter in the place where he saw this world serenely spinning the day before.

-- From Page 1

places of assembly listed inside this issue of The New Dramatic Chronicle will provide you with a good entertainment in safe and supportive atmosphere. They've all been advised, by the City's Arts Commission and Inspectors, to take extra steps right now to ensure your safety.

If you're nervous - at all - call the company that's performing and ask what they've done to assure themselves and you that it's ok to be there. They should also give you printed and/or verbal instructions on egress*.

*1. an act of going or passing out, esp. from an enclosed space. 2. an exit.



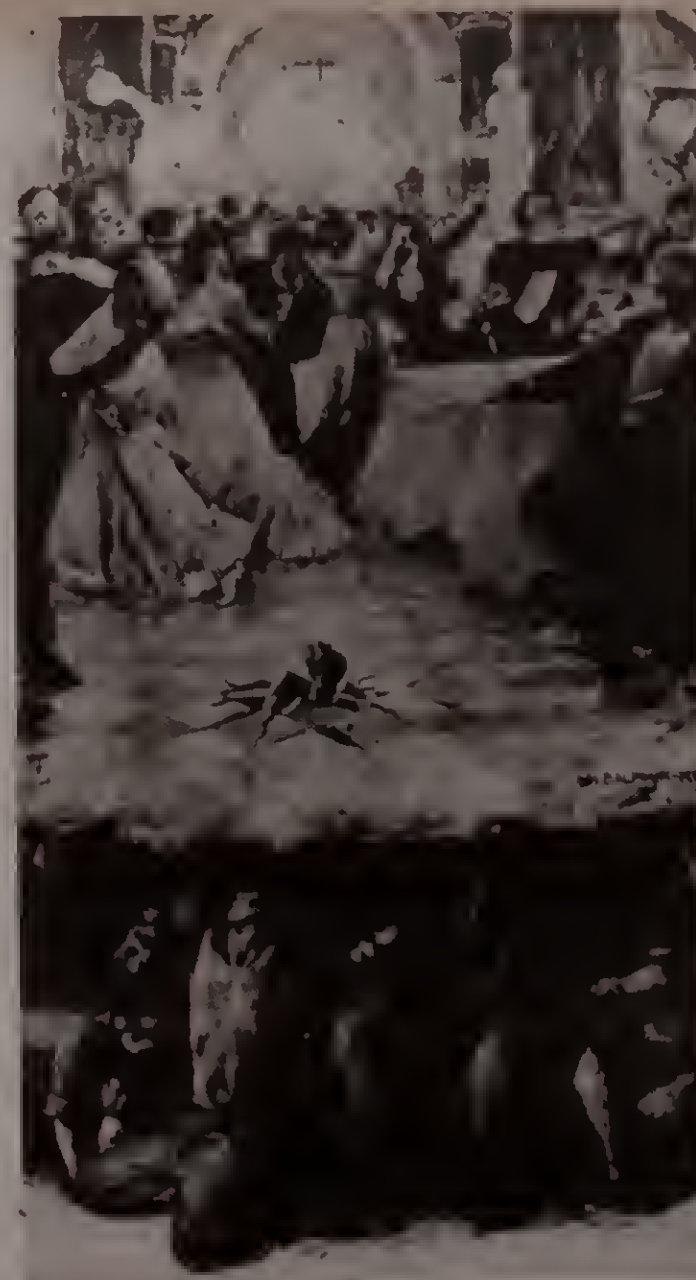
The American white Egret - *casmerodius albus egretta*
- 38 in. long. "Not to be confused with Egress" -P.T. Bamum

Bay Area Copes With Cultural Aftershocks - Excerpted from *The L.A. Times*

Margie O'Driscoll, appointed as Mayor Art Agnos' cultural affairs liason just two weeks ago, smiled when she recalled that, like thousands of others, she was at Candlestick Park Tuesday afternoon, but by the end of the weekend, O' Driscoll appeared to represent a widespread consensus here that the delay of the World Series was appropriate but that arts organizations - art galleries and museums as well as performing arts groups - needed to get back into operation as quickly as they could.

"Perhaps in the scale of things, people see the Series as something they can live without and the arts as something crucial at a time of trauma," said Donald Osborne, a booking agent. "People right now are looking to see something of normalcy. The arts have always played an important part. It goes beyond diversion. The arts make more clear to us the details and deeper meaning of the problem we just had."

As the San Francisco arts groups continue to work and get themselves together again, there will be an unavoidable transition period in which decisions are made about scheduling, spaces, and everything else that arisen due to the quake.



"Income taxes have made liars out of more people than golf"
- Will Rogers. To which list we might add earthquakes. .

A Lie For A Lie, And A Truth For A Truth

- Cynic's Calendar, 1903

Mission Cultural Center *presents*

Thursday, November 2 through Friday, November 24

Tableau of the Dead Day of the Dead Exhibit

Curated by René Yáñez
with artist collaborations

Opening Reception

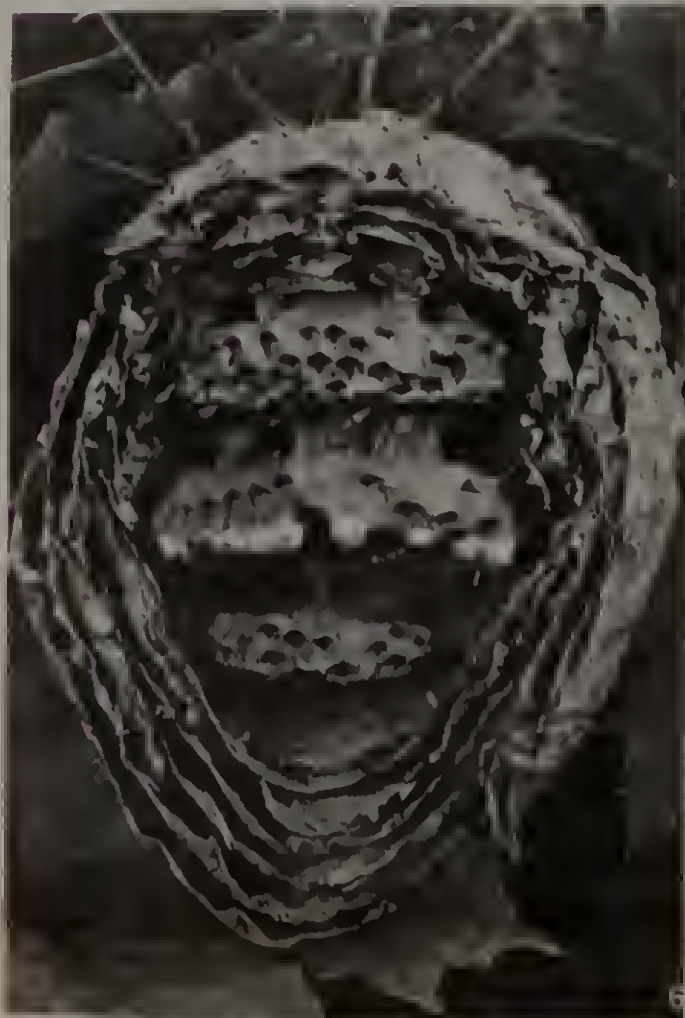
\$2 donation for reception only

Thursday, November 2 - 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Followed by a Procession to Raza Park

Potrero Avenue between 25th & 26th Streets

Mission Cultural Center
2868 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94110
(415) 821-1155



CHARLES GARRY, TONY SERRA and DORIS BRIN WALKER in *Closing Arguments in the Case of* **THE U.S. v. OLIVER NORTH**

Saturday, November 4 - 777 Valencia St
Benefit for Micklejohn Civil Liberties Institute
4:00 PM - \$25. St/Sr \$15. Bring 5, get in FREE
ONE TIME ONLY! -- PHONE 848-0559

RICHARD'S ALMANAC

Things we can do without after the EQ

1. Another One.
2. Quakes that happen during rush hour. The reunions and memorials will be a mess - on the Bay Bridge, the Nimitz Freeway or Marina Boulevard during the evening commute.
3. Any more ballparks (or any other new buildings) on landfill. We denied the '06 quake's effects by filling in Presidio Bay for the Panama Pacific Exposition of 1915, and didn't have the sense to dig it out again. We'd already filled in Mission Bay, the lake in the North Mission, and the Army and Alemany inlets. Later, the airports, Candlestick, India Basin, Foster City, et cetera. Stop.
4. Stupid television reporters "reporting 'live' from the scene of the tragedy." Nuke 'em.
5. Helicopters over cities, except for emergency actions. Put a couple of CHP-peopled blimps up there, if you must have pictures of stalled freeway traffic twice a day. Name them The Jane Dornacher and The Gary Powers.
6. Stupid jokes about sexual intercourse during the quake, even (or especially) by Herb Caen.
7. Headline Writers (HUNDREDS DEAD IN HUGE QUAKE, DEWEY BY LANDSLIDE) who don't check the facts.
- 7a. Editors who hire them.
8. Any more baseball pitchers who claim God gave them cancer to test their will, then cured them, then broke their arms to make sure they got the message.
9. Anyone who thinks God sent the quake, but killed someone else as an example, for our wicked ways.
10. Any more photographs of piss in a bottle, passed off as Art.
11. Any more bad dancing being passed off as Performance Art.
12. (Put your thing here)

Up And Running

Most arts groups are now operating at some level and need your attendance. Here are some in the Mission and South of Market who have reported that they are open for business with gallery exhibits or shows running. This is not a complete listing - you should call your favorite theatres and galleries to learn their schedules.

SOUTH OF MARKET AREA:

Ansel Adams Center/Friends of
Photography
SOMAR/South of Market
Cultural Center
Eye Gallery
Climate Theatre
"Festival Fantocho" - Modern Puppetry Festival
San Francisco Camerawork
New Langton Arts
S.F. Cinematheque
The Jewish Community
Museum

250 Fourth St.	495 - 7000
934 Brannan St.	552 - 2131
1151 Mission St. 252 9th St.	431 - 6911 626 - 9196
70 -12th St.	621 - 1001
1246 Folsom St.	626 - 5416
480 Potrero Ave.	558 - 8129
121 Stewart St.	543 - 8880

MISSION DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONS:

American Indian Film Festival

Intersection for the Arts
Galeria de la Raza/Studio 24
Galeria de la Raza/Día de Los Muertos
Procession/Performances
Galeria de la Raza/York Theatre
film premiere "La Ofrenda"
Film Arts Foundation
"Film Arts Festival"
Club Foot Orchestra/
"Cabinet of Dr. Caligan"
Soon 3 Theatre

ATravelling Jewish Theatre
"Heart of the World"
Artists Television Access
Pickle Family Circus

Amer. Indian Center, 225 Valencia & Palace of Fine Arts	554-0525 626 - 3311
766 Valencia St.	826 - 8009
2851-2857 24th St.	NOVEMBER 2 - Start: Mission & 24th St. 24th and York St.
826 - 8009 826 - 8009	
Roxie Theatre 16th/Valencia Sts	552 - 8760
moved to UC Theatre	863 - 7576
University @ Shattuck, (nr BART), Bkly	
New Performance Gallery, 17th/S Van Ness	558 - 8575
Eureka Theatre 16th and Harrison	861 - 4880
992 Valencia St.	824 - 3890
Palace of Fine Arts	826-0747

Many more Visual Arts shows and galleries in the area are open to the public. For a more complete list of these, call hard-working Michele Ellis Irwin at the Bay Area Consortium for the Visual Arts at 981-3980. For a monthly listing of both Performing and Visual Arts events that WERE scheduled before the publication went to press, ask for a free copy of the VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS CALENDAR by calling Dorthe Madsen at Performing Arts Services, 552-3507. And of course always call ahead to make sure what you're going to is still on, and where.



Edited by Richard Reineccius, Assisted by Poppie Loney

The New Dramatic Chronicle is published the spirit of the "Old" DC, which had a brief existence of four years or so in the "Earthquakey Times" of the latter half of the 1860's. The accompanying drawing by the famed Edward Jump (thanks to Rob Browning of the Mark Twain Papers at the Bancroft Library, Berkeley) describes in cartoon form the quake that happened in October of 1865, and was called the Great Earthquake for a brief period, until a greater one occurred in June, 1868. The biggest one ever in California was in 1872 in the Owens Valley, near Bishop, and was felt all the way to Salt Lake City.

Another description of the '65 shaker was penned by Jump's friend Samuel Clemens, who was employed as the theatre critic of the paper. He reported that he was walking down Third Street near Mission when "there came a really terrific shock; the ground seemed to roll under me in waves, interrupted by a violent joggling up and down, and there was a heavy grinding noise as of brick houses rubbing together. . . . As I reeled about on the pavement trying to keep my footing, I saw a sight! The entire front of a tall four-story brick building in Third Street sprung forward like a door and fell sprawling across the street."

Clemens Leaves Town, Chronicle Stops Being "Dramatic"

Not long after the Great Quake of '68, Clemens must have felt that someone was trying to say something to him. He left town permanently. He had returned here to write about some of his travels under the pseudonym of "Mark Twain". (He reportedly wrote "Innocents Abroad" while staying at a guest house near Potrero Hill.) He soon married one Olivia Langton, an heiress to the Hartford Insurance Company, and he later served on that company's board of directors, writing cruel jokes about insurance salesmen for the annual stockholders' meetings. We don't know if earthquake insurance was his idea.

Is A Rent Strike Our Solution?

The Direct Action Committee of the SFTU has been kicking around the idea of a rent strike for a while. The following Rent Adjustment Pledge (RAP) is the result of several months' collaboration between half a dozen people, and is still in the process of being drafted.

We feel that the traditional political avenues have failed tenants, and that the crisis of increasing homelessness demands stronger tactics. We have tried in the RAP to walk the precarious line between being both radical and reasonable. It's clear that electing Agnos, putting a vacancy control initiative on the ballot, and waiting for a sympathetic majority on the Board of Supes, has gotten us nowhere. The RAP is a different kind of approach.

If you're a housing activist or tenant, we'd love to hear your comments and discussion on this proposal. Would YOU be willing to take the risk? Please

defense spending by 31 percent. We now spend 42 times as much on defense as we do on housing—in 1981, that ratio was 7 to 1.

The decision to engage in a rent strike, even a modified version like this proposal, should not be taken lightly. It is not our intention to have anyone lose their home as a result of withholding rent. Therefore, we advise that you consider the following points carefully before signing the pledge.

California law has made rent strikes legal in certain situations. If a landlord has failed to make necessary repairs to correct housing and building code violations, and the tenant has given the landlord a reasonable amount of time to fix the problems, a tenant can stop paying rent until the building is repaired and brought up to code. If, as we are suggesting, you choose to withhold 10 percent of your rent to protest the current economic state of affairs, we recommend you take the following steps:

- 1) Do not begin withholding your rent money until you have been notified that all 20,000 pledges have been received.
- 2) Write your landlord a letter explaining what you are doing and why. Enclose this letter with your 90 percent rent payment.
- 3) Do not spend the rent money you are withholding. Make sure that this money is put away in a safe place, available if and when you need to pay the landlord.

If you receive a 3-day notice to pay rent or quit from your landlord, you will have to make a choice. You may pay the withheld rent within the

3 days, or you may choose to stand your ground and defend yourself against an eviction.

A landlord may sue the tenant in court if they have failed to move out after the notice to vacate expires. If the landlord wins in court, the judge will send an order to the Sheriff's Department to have the tenant physically evicted. **THIS IS THE STAGE AT WHICH TENANT SOLIDARITY BECOMES CRUCIAL.** The Sheriffs cannot possibly evict 20,000 people who are determined to keep their homes. The point of the Rent Adjustment Pledge is to mobilize a huge network of tenants willing to do non-violent direct action in defense of their homes and neighborhoods.

Direct action as a form of eviction defense is nothing new either. In 1933, 4,000 people surrounded a building in Harlem faced with eviction and forced the Sheriffs to retreat. The same thing happened here in SF in 1977 at the International Hotel, though with less success. And in rural America, we've seen farmers hand together to save themselves from mass foreclosures. To make the Rent Adjustment Pledge a success, tenants must have a firm commitment to the principle of mutual aid.

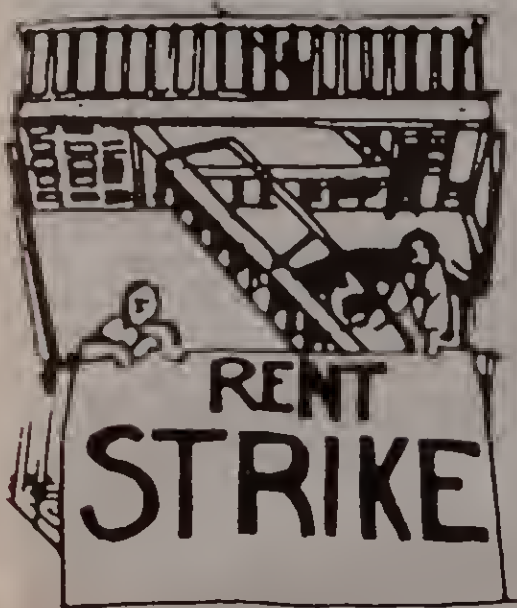
Some tenants will be understandably reluctant to jeopardize their relationship with a "good" landlord, especially if that landlord has fixed things promptly and not raised the rent at every opportunity. It's our position, however, that a truly "good" landlord will understand the economic plight of their tenants and not object to the rent adjustment. Indeed, we would encourage such landlords to "passthrough" the costs of the adjustments to the banks who hold the mortgage on the property, just as landlords have traditionally passed on their costs to us. After all, who can best afford it, the banks or tenants?

If a landlord raised the rent 10 percent, most tenants would grudgingly accept it, looking upon it as either an unavoidable nuisance, or worse, as part of the landlord's prerogative to seek a "fair return" on their investment. Why, then, is it so shocking for tenants to impose a 10 percent adjustment in the other direction? The answer lies in our internalized acceptance of a system that puts profit before people. We must avoid the temptation to rationalize our own economic exploitation, for those mental chains will bind us just as surely as any law or prison cell.

As tenants, our relationship with our landlords is an economic rather than political one. So why have we traditionally turned to the political arena for solutions to the housing crisis? When workers become dissatisfied with their wages or working conditions do they turn to politicians for help? Absolutely not. They form unions, negotiate directly with their bosses, and go on strike if necessary to win their demands. The tenants' movement has been led astray to the extent that we've depended on the intervention of politicians, especially considering that most of them are already in the pockets of big-money interests.

When you sign this pledge, you will begin to receive quarterly mailings about the progress of the pledge. We will not abandon you to fight in isolation, but will provide strong legal and political support. As the pledges accumulate and D-Day approaches, a series of neighborhood meetings will be called to allow tenants the chance to coordinate their defense strategies together. The Pledge office will serve as a clearinghouse for the campaign, but actual strategies will be developed at the grassroots level by neighborhood groups of tenants.

We can wait and do nothing, or we can take the initiative. The Rent Adjustment Pledge is a first step for tenants and small homeowners who wish to reassert some control over their housing, and thus over their lives.



540 Capp on Strike

For seven months now, we the tenants of 540 Capp St. have been waging a rent strike against the owner of the property, Mercedes Willis. At the heart of this dispute is an all too familiar story of a property owner more than willing to collect rents, yet unwilling to make repairs or maintain it in habitable condition. From the beginning we were more than willing to work with the owner to correct the conditions that had deteriorated. All we requested was a willingness on her part to follow through and make the repairs the building needs.

The violations of this building could easily fill a whole page. The last straw that pushed us to organize and call a strike was when our security system was dismantled shortly after the new owner bought the building (security camera, main gate lock, intercom system and manager who patrolled the building).

Almost 8 months later:

- Our swimming pool has been destroyed and now poses a serious threat. All that remains is a dirty pit waiting for one of our kids to fall into.
- Stoves and refrigerators still don't work and the ones that do are either dangerous to use (one stove blew a hole in a cooking pot after shorting out) and refrigerators that let food spoil.
- The building grounds are always dirty, but worst of all is the prostitution, drugs, hypodermic needles, used condoms, containers of gasoline found on the grounds.

WHAT HAS BECOME CLEAR TO US IS THAT THE OWNER, KNOWING FULL WELL THE BUILDING NEEDS REPAIRS (and in fact is under pressure from the District Attorney to make them) HAS CHOSEN INSTEAD TO LET THE BUILDING DETERIORATE IN HOPES OF FORCING US TO MOVE SO THAT SHE CAN REHAB THE BUILDING AND PASS THE COST TO NEW TENANTS THROUGH HIGHER RENTS. WE HAVE ALL BEEN SERVED 3 DAY NOTICES TO VACATE. On Thursday, September 28th, we staged a picket in front of City Hall to coincide with the 'Vacancy Control' hearings taking place inside. Our intentions were to let the Supervisors know not only how we feel, but that tenants cannot continue to wait passively for stronger legislation while every day situations like in our building go unchecked.

We urge you to support our strike and help put an end to this situation. What can you do?

Let the supervisors know that you support Vacancy Control legislation and want them to vote in its favor, through letters and phone calls.

But most important of all: ORGANIZE ON YOUR BLOCK AND IN YOUR BUILDINGS AND EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO DECENT, AFFORDABLE HOUSING. WE HAVE!

write to us here at the *Tenant Times*, or address it care of the Direct Action Committee. And if your group would like to sponsor the RAP, we want to know that too.

We work and eat together, we need no swords. We will not bow to the masters, or pay rent to the lords. We are free people, though we are poor, You Diggers all stand up for glory, stand up now.

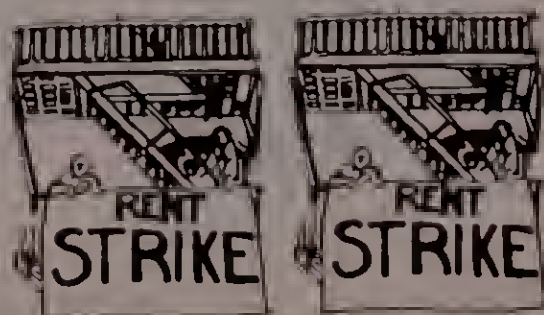
—From a song by Leon Rosselson

Rent strikes are nothing new. Ever since the propertied class first began to demand rent payments for land which had previously been held in common, rebel tenants have fought back using any and all tactics—including the rent strike.

In 17th century England, a group called the Diggers fought the policies of "enclosure" by building squatters communities and refusing to recognize the authority of the lords who "owned" the land (landlords). In the 1890's, rent strikes were an annual affair on New York's Lower East Side. Fed by the labor unrest of that period, these strikes subsided only after the passage of the New York Tenement Law of 1901. Again in the 1930's, workers in New York began massive rent strikes to protest their living conditions. And in 1970, public housing tenants in St. Louis carried out a successful rent strike against the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The fundamental plight of tenants has changed little over the years. Today in San Francisco, the skyrocketing cost of housing has created severe economic hardship for the homeless, tenants, and small-time homeowners of this city. Real estate speculation has made affordable housing an unattainable luxury. If tenants or homeowners fall behind in their payments to the landlords and banks who "own" their homes, they face the very real threat of losing those homes and joining the ranks of the homeless.

For most of us, buying a house is out of the question. The average SF home costs \$320,000, and increase of 32 percent over the last year. You would need an income of over \$100,000 to qualify for a mortgage today. Meanwhile, rents have soared as well. The cost of renting a 2-bedroom apartment has DOUBLED since 1980, from \$475 to \$950 a month. At the same time, the average worker's income has only risen by a third. SF residents not only pay the 2nd highest rents in the country—they also spend the 2nd highest percentage of their income on rent. And while housing costs have soared, the Federal Government has cut housing programs by 78 percent, but increased



cpf



Prop Q

Cont. from Page 1

it could defeat vacancy control, and; (2) How effective it is in the battle to have affordable housing in San Francisco.

The Vacancy Control Issue

Prop Q is craftily worded so that this "affordable housing" fund will come from taxes on apartments that do not have any rent controls when vacated. Thus, if vacancy control were ever to pass, it would mean the loss of this fund.

This is cynical politics at its best (worst?). The Coalition For Better Housing—the landlord/realtor political group—has decided on a strategy to beat VC by assuming that voters are too shallow to see through this and that renters, specifically, will vote against their own interests.

Thinking through this, here's what happens: vacancy control is on hold once again. Should Prop Q pass, when VC comes up again, we'll be barraged in the Ex/Chron media about how *maybe* vacancy control is a good idea, *but* if it passes we'll lose this wonderful housing fund. For Supervisors looking for an excuse to vote against VC, this is the perfect out. They can vote anti-tenant, while publicly saying it's a pro-tenant vote. They think they'll get the tenant vote and the landlord/realtor money. How perfect for a politician! But is it a solution?

The Realities of Prop Q

Let's look at how Prop Q would actually work:

First, it's a tax; landlords, under current law, can pass taxes on to tenants through rent increases. Who will pay this tax? Tenants will pay with higher rents. Landlords won't pay a cent and will be laughing all the way to the bank over how crafty they were to defeat vacancy control.

Second, Prop Q will fund city services which already exist. That means it doesn't fund new housing services as much as it shifts taxes from landlords to tenants to pay for what we already have. The funding goes to *maintain* our current and intolerable level of housing funding. Simply, tenants would now pay for the shameful inadequacies in housing and homelessness funds we now see—used to be the landlords' payed. Tenants will continue to subsidize a government that spends \$44 on the military for every \$1 on housing.

Lastly, Prop Q is written on an absurd concept of "affordable housing". It says that affordable housing is based on HUD definitions of what is affordable: \$750 for a studio apartment is considered "affordable" by HUD for a "low-income family." Of course, we see clearly these days how devoted to housing HUD is...

Prop Q probably will not win. It needs a two-thirds vote to pass, since it is a tax. However, it's quite likely that it will at least have the effect of stalling vacancy control as the Supervisors will likely wait to see whether it does win and thus borderline VC supporters would have an out to vote against vacancy control and call it a pro-tenant vote.

Prop R Will Mean Evictions

Cont. from Page 1

Limit to the Number of Condo Conversions—Each year, the law limits to 200 the number of conversions which can occur. While ideally the number should be lower, this is far better than what it replaced: unlimited number of conversions.

Protections for Tenants—Current law has a number of tenant protections built in, e.g. prevention of eviction of elderly or disabled tenants; rights of tenants to purchase their own units if they are able to do so; provision of relocation costs to tenants displaced; and prohibition of conversions in buildings where illegal evictions had been made in the last eighteen months.

Consent of Tenants to Conversions—The current law says that 40 percent of the tenants in the building must consent to the conversion by agreeing to purchase their units.

While this is not an ideal bill—and tenant activists will be moving to strengthen it—it is far stronger than Proposition R.

Proposition R

The greatest danger of Proposition R is that it would allow another 500 conversions on top of the existing 200, up until 1993. Then there would be *no limit at all*.

However, almost equally damaging, Prop R will significantly weaken the existing tenant protections tenants have today. It, for example, will not require that tenants actually commit to purchasing their units but rather that tenants merely "agree." This is dangerous in that it is unclear as to what "agree" means and exposes tenants to all types of manipulations by their landlords. Also, the requirement that tenants must agree by purchasing provides some protection that low-income buildings won't be major targets of conversion; with Prop R, landlords could go after those buildings. Second, it allows conversions of buildings where tenants had been illegally evicted in the past six months (as opposed to 18 months in the current law). This will make it quite easy for landlords to move-in, evict tenants and then wait 6 months to file for conversion. Further, the touted

tenant protections which landlords say make this such a good initiative—the protections of elderly or disabled tenants, for example, are the same (or worse in some cases) as the protections tenants have today.

The landlords/realtors have been smart in their portrayal of Proposition R: From the beginning, paid petitioners were on the streets asking voters to sign a petition for "tenants rights." And in the Voter's Handbook, their arguments for it boast these supposed rights and people's names carefully conceal their affiliation with groups such as the Apartment Owners Association. Meanwhile every tenant group in the city has come out against Proposition R, as have Mayor Agnos and the Board of Supervisors.

The vote on this could be close if tenant groups don't get the word out that this is a sham.

Condos

Why are condos so bad? On the face of it they sound good: enabling tenants to purchase their homes. However, what really happens is that few tenants can actually purchase their unit and they end up evicted. Consider that the two-bedroom apartment you live in would probably cost you \$375,000 to purchase in San Francisco's inflated real estate market. Say you received a letter from your landlord saying the building was going condo: you would need to come up with a \$75,000 down-payment, fairly soon, and have an income a bank would accept for a mortgage—at least over \$100,000.

Faced with those figures, most tenants will be eventually evicted.

a further problem is that condo conversions are basically speculative. While landlordism is a long-term, high-profit investment, conversions bring in huge short-term profits. Consider that a converted 10 unit building would rake in \$37.5 million. This is the type of short term profit taking that soon evolves in speculative fever as realtors and landlords use that \$37.5 mil as capital to invest in other buildings, make small improvements to

Cont. on Page 7

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Prop R Will Mean Evictions

Cont. from Page 6

increase resale value, (or in San Francisco, just wait a few months for it to appreciate) and then convert that building. Targets for such actions will be working and middle income neighborhoods on the verge of being gentrified.

What happens in these cases are massive evictions—many of whom will be elderly, low-income or disabled. With Proposition R's loose limits on how soon evictions can occur before conversion (six months), tenants will lose much protection as owners will move to clear a building of existing tenants, wait the six months, convert it and reap a substantial profit.

Another danger with Prop R and how the landlords are arguing it is they talk about "tenant ownership." In reality, likely targets of this are smaller apartment buildings, ones where one to four owners (i.e. landlords) move in and evict tenants under the "Owner Move-In" or "Owner-occupied" loopholes in the city's Rent Control Law which are legal grounds for evicting tenants. Thus, suddenly the building's "tenants" are really the landlords who got in the building by throwing out the real tenants—they're long gone when the

building gets converted

Lastly, when looking at condominiums it is important to understand that San Francisco is desperately short of affordable rental housing. There are thousands and thousands of tenants who cannot even afford the rents here, never mind the cost of home ownership. With home ownership out of the question for so many tenants, it is vitally important that the city maintain an adequate supply of rental housing. Two-thirds of the people here rent, so this rental stock is vital in San Francisco. Every time an apartment is converted, it means a unit of (often affordable) rental housing is lost forever—why Proposition R's provision to end all restrictions is so dangerous. It will simply add to the people being forced out of San Francisco or onto the streets.

In November, vote No on evictions and displacement; join the TU and every other tenant, neighborhood and progressive group: No on Prop R.

by Ted Gullicksen

Fee Again

Cont. from Page 3

of the fee necessary to cover the budget each year plus the cost of collection. If the landlords don't pay, then fines can happen, interest accrues and a lien can be put on the property. **Again, no penalty is placed on non-paying tenants.**

The Board of Supes reluctantly on a 6-5 vote approved the fee. However, they provided that the ordinance would lapse, or sunset, on June 30, 1990, so, they will have to pass a similar ordinance again next year for a fee to be collected in the Fall of 1990. Voting for the fee were Alioto, Britt, Hallinan, Hongisto, Kennedy, and Walker. Against were: Gonzalez, Hsieh, Maher, Nelder and Ward. The large majority of other cities in California

with rent stabilization/control use a fee to fund their rent boards. The fee may be paid by the landlord and/or, directly/indirectly, and completely or partially, passed on to renters. Recent fees: Berkeley, \$88/yr; Santa Monica, \$144/yr; Campbell, \$4/yr; Cotati, \$15/yr; East Palo Alto, \$38/yr; Los Angeles, \$14/yr; San Jose, \$10/yr; and Hayward, \$12/yr.

(For more information: get a copy of the "Residential Rent Stabilization and Arbitration Fee" Ordinance (-278-89) from the Board of Supervisors, Room 235, City Hall, San Francisco, 94102 or contact the SF Tenants Union at 282-6622 for more information.)

Grubb

Cont. from Page 2

(Steiner), and on Page (Pierce); he is also a homeowner. Sources indicate that there is a particularly messy eviction situation in at least one of the buildings. Deputy Mayor for Housing Brad Paul said on August 15th that the Mayor's Office had been concerned about these holdings (and aware of the eviction problem) but understood that Grubb would "consolidate" his holdings in a smaller three or four unit structure not covered by the Rent Law (and/or not presenting a substantial conflict?). Grubb has just informed me that he intends to go beyond narrow conflict requirements and get rid of **all** his real estate holdings—except for his own residence—within the next sixty days or so.

Apparently, thirty persons, including those from out-of-state, applied for the job of Executive Director of the Rent Board. They included Don Hesse, Coordinator of Fair Housing for the SF Human Rights Commission, a thirteen year veteran of city government, with a much longer record of involvement in housing and rent control issues; Rent Control Commissioner Jake McGoldrick, a school teacher, housing and neighborhood activist; and another candidate who was a nationally known politically progressive expert and writer on housing issues and rent control. Other than McGoldrick, no Rent Board Commissioner of employee of the Rent Board applied. Tenant Commissioners Denise Stephenson, Polly Marshall, and Vivian Hammill—along with the landlord representatives—voted to recommend Grubb.

(Some close observers of the scene speculated that

the selection scenario was not accidental at all. The Mayor and the Board, coming under great pressure from increasingly militant landlords, felt a political need to appoint someone sympathetic to the industry. Who better than a landlord or ex-landlord?)

At the August 15th reception for the new Executive Director, (appropriately held overlooking the homeless encampment in Civic Center Plaza ("Camp Agnos")), Joe Grubb remarked about his selection: "It wasn't exactly what everybody wanted, but you are going to get your money's worth!" After pledging to impartially "serve the People," he finished with a ringing endorsement of Prop. P—Mayor Agnos' controversial November ballot proposition to finance a new baseball stadium. Agnos then laughingly interjected: "That was not part of the requirements for his job!"

The Executive Director of the SF Rent Board is an extraordinary key job in safeguarding the rights and the homes of the majority of San Franciscans who are renters. Tenants are now being asked to completely fund the Rent Board, which by all rights, should now really become a "Tenants Protection Agency," not merely a neutral bureaucracy. Despite the sad record of the Agnos Administration and Agnos Rent Board so far we can still be hopeful, I guess, for a strong, open, fair, and fully funded Rent Board with **real** Vacancy Control.

I can only applaud the new Executive Director's intention to completely divest and end all appearance/reality of conflict of interest. And I must also applaud the Agnos/Board efforts in affirmative action here. Grubb, who is a member of the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club, is the first openly gay person ever appointed to head a city department.

by Michael Harney

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Support Your Tenants Union

The San Francisco Tenants Union is a volunteer based organization supported almost totally by our members. It is not inexpensive to operate an organization which provides a voice for tenants throughout the city and supports individual tenants in their battles with their landlords, and we can always use more help from our members. There are many ways you can help out the TU:

First of all, you can send us your donations! We know you've had to shell out your hard earned dollars to become members in the first place and we certainly do appreciate it! But your extra donations can help us with our newsletter costs, revising our handbook, conducting Eviction Watch 89...

Second, you can encourage your friends, neighbors and associates to become members. You can use the coupon in this newsletter or call 282-6622 for further information.

Third, you can volunteer your time at our office. Your help is needed in the following areas: Community Outreach, Data Entry, Fundraising, Organizing, Legislative Work, Newsletter and Tenant Counseling. We are particularly short of counselors at this time, which means that our doors are shut and there's no one to answer the phone during many of our counseling shifts. We are having a four session counselor training workshop coming up soon. Anyone interested in counseling or other volunteer work should call 282-6622 and leave your name and phone number.

JOIN THE SFTU

If you wish to join the TU, please fill out the form below and mail it in with a check or money order to the SFTU at 558 Capp Street, S.F., CA, 94110. When we receive your application, we'll send you the members-only phone number and our Handbook.

☐ New ☐ Renewal

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(W) _____

Zip Code _____

Landlord's Name _____

Units in Bldg. _____

Bedrooms in Unit _____

Current Rent _____

☐ \$20 Low Income

☐ \$30 Regular

☐ \$40 Household

☐ \$60 Sustaining

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☐ Newsletter

☐ Legislative Committee

☐ Organizing

☐ Fundraising

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☐ Outreach

☐ Direct Action

☐ Vacancy Control Campaign

☐ Other

All members receive Tenant Rights Handbook and regular newsletter.

ROBERT BURCH
ATTORNEY

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EVICTON DEFENSE

My Name is Mike

"My name is Mike," he said.

He was sitting on the hench next to the tent in the Civic Center as the crews tore down the halloons and colored ribbons and folded up the tables they had used in the Affordable Housing Fair. He seemed pretty young, curly headed and wore a long hagggy army parka with the hood up.

"Well that's my name too!" I responded and laughed.

It seemed kind of funny somehow. It was an opening. The winds were growing stiffer as evening expanded and the first strands of fog were streaming in over the bitter roofs of our world. The homeless residents were filtering back as the Fair personnel took away the last of the party trappings. The Pickle Circus people were almost cleaned up, and Brad Paul, the Mayor's recently appointed housing deputy, was giving a little pep talk to his admiring troops, who occasionally looked with disdain or non-interest in my far-off direction.

It had been a day of depression, of mitigated failure from my perspective. The Poetry Event, calling upon the Muse to confront the profound corruption and injustice of our society had fizzled and then utterly choked. Two homeless men had been arrested, for failing to remove their belongings and had their tent confiscated. A second tent (mine) had been taken down. Our people and our energy had been frustrated and diffused in fruitless arguments with Fair organizers and then the police. They won. The poetry hadn't happened.

Steve, Rudi and I had finally gone off dejected for a tasteless lunch on Market St. and then home to smoke a joint. Now I was back in the Plaza again, alone, to mourn our losses, pick up the broken pieces and just say good-bye. It was all a bitter, sad lemon, and I was having to eat the whole thing. I felt fragmented and unfulfilled.

Yes, we had given away plenty of good, nutritious food (thanks Ellen and Maggie) and six bags of fine clothing (via Marvin and family). At the TU table we had given out much useful advice and information to many renters and distributed leaflets on the upcoming Housing Now! march. But for me, all that was small comfort wrapped up in the dismal failure of my central event, the 'Confrontational Poetics' event. Many good and vibrant poets had come and left in disgust (to my embarrassment). The leaflet, announcing the event, which seemed so inspiring before now seemed like a sliver bent on festering inside me.

I hadn't accurately gauged the size of the Fair, the crowd, the impact of the circus or the wandering mariachi band, and most of all, for the emotions of my fellows in the midst of the confrontation. We got swallowed up and excreted.

Oh well (I told myself) what had happened could not be changed. Nothing ventured, nothing gained, as they say. Some hungry folks got a meal

out of it. Some kid has a baseball mitt. It's over now; just chalk it up to experience and move on. And try not to get so ego involved!

I put the center pole back in the small pup tent. The sign next to it (thanks Jess) which read 'This Is Affordable Housing' seemed more profound than ever—especially with fair filled with booths from realtors, bankers and other con-men, claiming that one can find affordable housing in San Francisco. It *was* a pleasant day (weather-wise) mostly sunny and clear, with a fresh, invigorating sea breeze. Mike and I just sat there doing nothing, watching, as the artificial scenes were dismantled.

A group of homeless "tweakers" (crack cocaine users) who had drifted or been driven to the edges of the park during the festivities, began to filter back and reestablish themselves under the olive trees (or what's left of them). One young couple, a muscular, stocky man and a thin small woman were having an argument. It seemed male dominated and one-sided.

The woman's responses were low and inaudible and the man was aggressively gesturing as if he meant to carry out the threat. But from our distance, the source of the dispute or who was really at fault seemed remote. The intensity of the anger was real, however, and the ugliness of the deep frustration was quite plainly exposed and invasive.

Mike turned to me and frowned. "Man, I hate to see that. I just stay away from people. Ya know? It's just too messy; I can't take it."

"I know what you mean, man. But all a person's got is his friends, ya know. All we got is each other. That's about all there really is. . . I think."

"Well not for me. I'm too filthy. . ."

I just let that one sit there for awhile. The cool wind, the grass bending in the evening light, the smell of the sea. . . you know how it is.

But then I answered, "You don't look that bad to me. You're not filthy. You seem like a good guy to me."

"Well, I haven't been rolling around in the mud or anything. But I'm filthy all right. I stink."

"You're okay, man. Really. You don't seem bad at all. Just a regular guy as far as I can see."

He didn't answer that and I shut up too. We went back to the silence, just hang'n out. After awhile, casually, I asked again, "Sure you don't want this tent? I'm going to give it to someone; might as well be you. It's a good ground cover too, even if you want to set it up."

"No! no, Mike! I don't want it!" he said with maybe too much emphasis. "I'm not a beggar, you know. I'm not a roach, and hey! stop asking me. Okay Mike? Okay? Just stop asking me!"

"Okay, sorry."

We were back to just being there together. I decided to get into the posture and and sit a little zazen. I thought, "I'll just do it for myself and maybe go through my chants and songs and poems (silently); the ones I was going to do for the poetry event. Just to complete the cycle. You know, just to let it out."

So I crossed my legs and brought my feet up. But no big deal. Just beln' a lump. Just a hit of dust on this big old earth. I followed my breath and tried to sit straight but not rigid, as Suzuki Roshi had taught me. I felt whole again, as always.

After awhile Mike spoke: "What are you doing?"

"Meditating. It's easy. Any one can do it. Just sit quietly and follow your hreath. You know, just in, and out. Naturally. Don't try to rush it, just let it happen. And you don't have to sit like this either, the bench is fine. Why, you might be doing it all the time and not even know it. It doesn't cost anything either and it's always with you, no matter what."

He kind of smiled then (the first time); "Okay," he said, "I can do that."

"I know you can; it's easy. I learned it from an old Japanese guy, but he's dead now."

So then we were two lumps, plus infinity. . . and we were just there. No place else. Enough. Just following the great waves of our ocean breath, in and out. Very simple. Just me and you kid. Get it? For a time then we were all of it, until the fog covered us and the sky above was cold and wet.

Finally, I bowed (in the Zen way) and moved towards getting up. I am weak; I know that I have a home with a heater to care for me.

"Thanks Mike. It's been great. I'll be seeing you again, okay?"

"Sure, Yeah. See Ya. Hey what about the tent?"

"Oh, I'm leaving it. Some one will come along. It doesn't belong to me anymore. Take care. See Ya."

"Yeah. See Ya."

Slowly I picked my way across the big hard plaza. Sure is a lot of concrete in this world. The Fair was all gone now. You wouldn't even know it ever happened at all, tomorrow. And the Poetry Event (my embarrassment), it was nothing but a scrap of paper blown to the careless wind that nobody had read or cared about (except me) anyway. What was real was it was getting chilly and dark and I was hungry.

When I reached the far side of the plaza I stopped and looked back across to where I had been. There was Mike and he was taking the tent.

I laughed, "My name's Mike, too."

by Michael Canright

NO ON PROP R!

Proposition R is a landlord/realtor sponsored initiative. It will eliminate all restrictions on condominium conversions, meaning the eviction and displacement of thousands of tenants. Can you pay \$375,000 for your apartment? If not, you will join the ranks of the evicted.

**DON'T BE FOOLED—
VOTE NO ON PROP R!**

NO ON PROP Q!

Prop Q is the landlord's alternative to vacancy control. It is a tax that tenants will be forced to pay through higher rents to create a fund for "affordable" housing. The fund will not create real affordable housing and without vacancy control we'll continue to lose thousands of truly affordable apartments.

NO ON Q! NO RENT TAX!

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NEIGHBORHOOD BEAT



Photo by Collette Sweeney

On October 13th, the Reverend Carlos A. Sevilla, the first Latino bishop of San Francisco in recent history, attended a reception in his honor at Centre Latino at 15th Street.

The bishop, a native San Franciscan, chatted with seniors and gave a short talk on the subject of "Friendship".

SEASON TO BEWARE

A lot of con artists and hustlers are using the current confusion to look for easy prey. Any legitimate inspector of a public agency like any City department or PG&F has clear identification. If you feel uneasy or you are unable to walk around, ask a friend or neighbor to be present.

Do not let an uninvited "contractor" inspect your home.

Legitimate "contractors" will tell you fast action is needed to secure a work schedule or a bargain price. Any contractor who charges for cost

estimates or wants cash - no checks, please - should be dealt with as a crook, stay away.

Legitimate contractors have an office with an address and a phone number (listed in the phone book) which they gladly give you along with their contractor license number. Real contractors know that there is competition and that people get at least three written estimates before hiring one of the contractors.

Take the time to check out whether the person you spoke to really works for the named company, whether the

contractor license is valid and whether there are serious complaints against that person or company. Use the phone. Here are some useful numbers:

Contractors State License Board 469-6200; District Attorney - Consumer Fraud Division 553-1814; Better Business Bureau 243-9999.

The best safeguard against rip-off and fraud is to deal with companies with which you have prior good experience, asking friends and neighbors, or at least go to a company which you know existed before the quake. Do as much business as possible in written form with detailed contracts signed by both parties. Always, without exception, pay by check or credit card. Similar caution is warranted with charitable solicitors.

Unfortunately, many a hustler selling illegally bus transfers on the street corner will pose as solicitor for a

charity.

Legitimate solicitors have an ID but there are many fakes around. Your rule should be clear: no cash, never. Any legitimate charity gladly accepts checks and has an address where to send it to. Only con artists will tell you that there is such urgency that legal tender cash is needed. And even more criminally inclined elements will try to enter your home while you look for your purse. A legitimate solicitor understands that s/he has to wait outside a closed door when you go back inside to look for your checkbook.

Don't be deceived that the "solicitor" or the "contractor" looks so neat and nice. Hey, that's the job prerequisite of a con artist. So, be generous if you can but make sure that you and the people who really need your donation don't get ripped off.

Bernd Pick

CENTRAL AMERICAN BULLETINS

English Teachers for Nicaragua are being sought by Maestros Por La Paz - a multi cultural San Francisco organization which provides teachers to ministries in Nicaragua. 6 month commitment and knowledge of Spanish and teaching required. Some pay. Send resume or letter of interest to Maestros

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HIT AND RUN WITNESSES SOUGHT

Anyone having any information regarding the hit and run accident that happened at 16th and Albion on Sun-

day, October 29th at 12:30 AM (late Saturday evening) please call Dianne at 621-1617.



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A NEW MEANING FOR VETERAN'S DAY

Traditionally, Veterans Day has been considered a holiday of pride, a day to honor those who have played a role in preserving our freedom and defending our country.

The November 11 holiday was originally called Armistice Day, a day of celebration begun to honor the end of World War I, "the war to end all wars". But as new wars brought home new veterans, the holiday became known as Veterans Day, in honor of all war veterans. Presidents honor veterans on this day with speeches emphasizing the strength of our country, a strength they inevitably attribute to the hard-fought efforts of America's veterans.

In the last few decades, however, that definition of Veterans Day has begun to change. In the next decade, the majority of veterans in this country will be from the Vietnam-era or later. As these veterans come into their own, they are changing both the way we celebrate Veterans Day and the way we think about veterans.

One of the leaders of that change is the North Mission's own Swords to Plowshares. Begun 15 years ago by Vietnam veterans who realized the system that created their problems was not doing enough to help solve those problems, Swords to Plowshares has since its inception represented a new definition of the term "veteran".

The Vietnam veterans served by Swords to Plowshares are not the hailed defenders in a popular war, but rather the victims of an unpopular conflict that cost 50,000 soldiers their lives and permanently scarred the lives of those who did return. They went to Vietnam to



fulfill their duty to their country, and returned to find that their country had turned its back on them. Popular opinion opposed their efforts, and the Veterans Administration that had provided so much for their fathers was ill equipped, and in many cases unwilling, to deal with their unique difficulties.

Today, 15 years after the war ended, the effects of that war are still being felt. In San Francisco, 37 percent of the homeless are veterans, and nationally that percentage is higher. Vietnam veterans have higher substance abuse and suicide rates than the general population, and a great many still suffer from physical and psychological ailments

directly attributed to their war experience.

Compounding the problem is government inaction. Veterans today are receiving fewer benefits than at any time since World War II, even though their needs are greater, due to Reagan-era cutbacks in social services. The balance is being made up by organizations like Swords to Plowshares.

Michael Blecker, Swords to Plowshares' Executive Director, points out that Swords to Plowshares and other service providers are the "unknown force" in the post-Reagan era, providing more services than ever from a smaller funding base. Both government and corporate funding of social service agencies has declined in the '80's, but the need for such services is greater than at any time in our history.

Swords to Plowshares provides employment services, counseling, legal assistance and other services to veterans. In addition, they operate a transitional housing program in the Tenderloin which helps veterans who are on their way to recovery.

Blecker, himself a Vietnam veteran, says the problems faced by Swords to Plowshares are similar to those faced by other service organizations. Available funding decreases, preventing people who need services from receiving them. As the number of people in need of those services increases, the availability decreases and the problem is compounded.

As part of their Veterans Day celebration, the veterans served by Swords to Plowshares will not gather to hear speeches from the president. Instead, 300-400 homeless veterans will gather at the Tenderloin Housing Program to share a meal and enjoy entertainment from, among others, fellow veterans on their way to recovery.

These veterans gather to celebrate Veterans Day in a much different way than their fathers did. And while this kind of celebration is perhaps bittersweet, it is, unfortunately, a celebration that threatens to become permanent.



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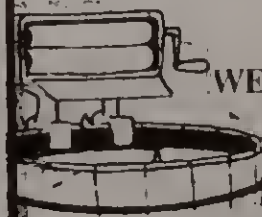
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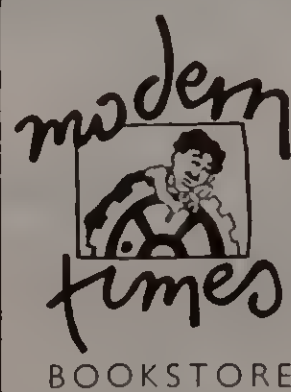
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DANGEROUS LOVES AT THE YORK

- by Mario Joel

Cine Acción and the York Theater present Gabriel Garcia Marquez with a series of movies based on his scripts. The series is titled "Dangerous Loves". Nobel Prize Award winner Gabriel Garcia Marquez is one of the most popular and influential writers in the world today. He has been the source of inspiration to a new generation of Latin American writers. His works essentially combine the realism of Latin American life with the faith and magic of Hispanic culture. The York Theater is proud to present on this occasion five movies based on Marquez' stories. One of them was presented for the first time in San Francisco in a series called "Dangerous Loves". In each movie, Garcia Marquez collaborated closely with the different directors in search of a very appropriate realization in different Latin American countries and in Spain.

The festival opens on Friday, November 3 at 7:15 with "Fable of the Beautiful Pigeon Fancier". This movie was directed by Ruy Guerra (Brazil 1988) and features Claudia Ohana (Erendira) with the stellar presentations of Ney Latorraca and Chico Diaz. This is the story of Orestes, the wealthy owner of a cachaca (sugar cane "aguardiente") factory in a Brazilian town, whose authority is undisputable.

Orestes has occasional affairs with the women of some of his friends. These are furtive encounters that leave no mark on him, only the satisfaction of his carnal desires. But one day he meets Fulvia, the beautiful pigeon fancier - who has a small child, a lot of messenger pigeons that stay home with no destiny and an adorable musician husband - and his life changes radically.

Orestes falls in love at first glance, which is not reciprocated for a long time during which they send cryptic messages through the alliance of the

pigeons. One afternoon, Orestes writes on Fulvia's belly with pink paint "This is Mine" with an arrow pointing south. That night Fulvia, as always, undresses in front of her husband having forgotten the burning confession written on her belly.

"Miracle in Rome" was directed by Lisando Duque (Columbia 1988). This is one of Marquez' sweetest and most charming stories in the "Dangerous Loves" series. Our hero places his love for his young daughter above all else. The power of his pure, simple love is contrasted with the hypocritical, corrupt power of the Catholic church, which he fights from his small town in Columbia all the way to the Vatican.

Margarito Duarte, is a modest judicial employee of a small Columbian town whose seven year old daughter, Evelia, dies suddenly. Twelve years later Margarito goes to the cemetery to dig up the remains of his daughter, what a surprise to Margarito and the others there, and little girl is still intact as if she had just gone to sleep.

"The Summer of Miss Forbes" (Mexico 1988) was directed by Jaime Hermosillo, with the magnificent performances of Francisco Gattorno, Hanna Schygulla and the children, Alexis Castanares and Victor Cesar Villalobos.

Miss Forbes, a German governess, is hired to take care of the two sons of a wealthy couple that have decided to take a cruise. Miss Forbes reveals herself to be an authoritarian and she imposes a strict, military discipline on the children to make them fulfill their obligations. Her behavior makes the children hate her and they plot to kill her. The children spy on her at night and they discover a very different Miss Forbes from the cold woman who dictates orders and threatens them. They discover a voluptuous woman who reads pornographic magazines, drinks like a barfly and intones strange songs while she walks, naked, through the



Claudia O'Hara in *The Beautiful Pigeon Fancier*

house.

"A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings", directed by Fernando Birri, was filmed in Cuba, Italy and Spain in 1988. The famed Argentine director plays the title role of a mute man with large wings (a man or an angel?). The angel is discovered in the sea by a poor Caribbean couple. They put him in a chicken coop, and soon they are surrounded by a carnivalesque group of gawkers, hucksters and pilgrims. It is shown on November 3, 5 and 7th at 9:15 PM.

"I'm the One You're Looking For" is one of the most controversial movies that I have seen and that the York has shown. It was directed by Jaime

Chavarri and beautifully filmed in Barcelona in 1988. It is the story of a growing obsession of a woman with the man who violently raped her. This movie is very graphic and one of the best of the "Dangerous Loves" series and is Gabriel Garcia Marquez in his splendor.

For more information and a complete calendar of this "Dangerous Loves" series please call the York Theater at (415) 282-0316. We also recommend, if you would like to read the various works of Gabriel Garcia Marquez, go to La Pajarita News-Media Store at 3125 16th Street. Their telephone is (415) 431-4264.

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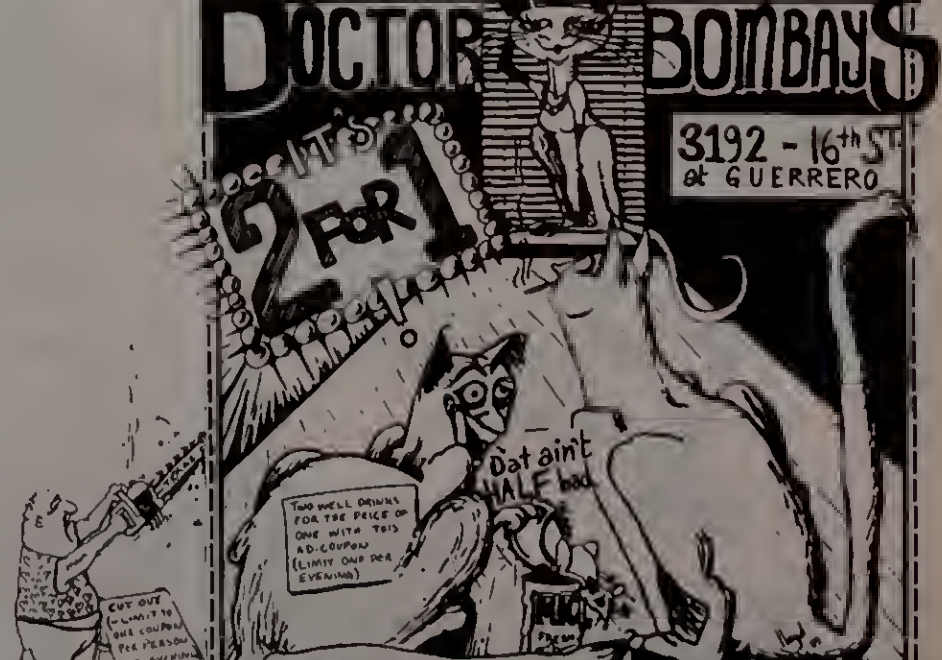
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SHUTTLECOCK AT THE ROXIE

- by Brian Doohan

A "shuttlecock", as defined in the postscript to the film of the same name by Jerry Barrish, is "a cork stuck with feathers as used in badminton".

The principle characters, Mona (played by 14th Street resident Ann Block) and Jack (portrayed by comedian and Mayoral candidate Will Durst) are a pair of shuttlecocks batted between their inhibitions and desires and, while this carefully paced and crafted film has been compared to sex, lies and videotape it is, in fact, a study of producers, not consumers; a far deeper and more disturbing exploration of the paths by which sublimated careers and art both reflect and repress emotional tremors.

The plot is a Rubik's cube of relationships. Mona, who lives at a Pacifica beach house is introduced by her friend Lina, a German cabaret singer (Liane Hielscher) to the new couple; Jack and Cristie (Maria Isaacs), respectively a stand-up comic and a stripper.

Mona, a Woody Allen-by-way-of-Glenn Close painter and therapy-addict pursued by her lascivious Dr. Sayles (Christian Phillips), stumbles into a clandestine affair with the amoral Jack-next-door. As events unravel, Mona sheds some of her neuroticism, Jack discovers a conscience and the others try to exploit or ameliorate the circumstances before this dangerous liaison spirals down towards a fatal attraction.

Barrish, who first employed the extroverted comic/introverted artist dichotomy in one segment of his 1982 trilogy "Dan's Motel" (a "wonderfully whimsical movie full of human worth" according to the Chronicle's Peter Stack), is a sculptor and South of Market bail bondsman who scripted "Shuttlecock" with an eye towards production in Germany, where his films have enjoyed more commercial success.

Money did not manifest, but his European stay did gain him a new perspective on the script, Block (who was working on a Mark Huestis film there), and Heilscher, who has been called the Joan Collins of German television. "Alfred Hitchcock likes to walk through his films," Barrish says, "I like to have a woman singing in a club. It's become a sort of a trademark."

Cabaret's mirror is stand-up comedy, a discipline Barrish has admired since his childhood. "Some of the great roles in serious movies have been portrayed by comedians like Milton Berle and Jackie Gleason. 'Dan's Motel' was a sort of romantic refuge for artists; in 'Shuttlecock' I was more concerned about how creative people get their information - how they absorb what is happening around them into their craft."

While most audiences ultimately enjoyed the film, "Shuttlecock" has had its share of detractors, mainly festival directors in San Francisco and New York and impatient souls who walk out before the film gets into gear, perhaps offended by Jack's callousness and/or Mona's withdrawal. "But how can you have a film about change without people who have flaws?" Barrish replies.

Ann Block, a veteran of local stages such as Theater Rhinoceros and star of Marc Huestis' "What Ever Happened to Susan Jane?" and the forthcoming "Spirit of '76" which recently completed shooting in Alameda, threw herself into the challenge of making what is, in the beginning of the film, a very unlikable character grow into somebody whose concerns and destiny is of importance to the viewer.

"Sometimes I wanted to slap her," Block admits of Mona. "But I was determined to have her on her feet by the end of the film."

Durst is more well known as a comedian, columnist for the Examiner and would-be politician (his 1987 debate with Warren Hinckle at the Roxie was a highlight of that grim campaign). In "Shuttlecock", he gradually expands the role of Jack to reflect some of the anguish that so often hides behind the jester's mask.

The other performers are capable, and if there is one problem with "Shuttlecock" it is that their side of the story is given insufficient exposition, particularly the mysterious Lina. She punctuates the film with several Brechtian ditties written by Barrish and composed by Richard Secrist whose soundtrack, though occasionally loud, admirably complements the windswept San Mateo coastline and smoky San Francisco nightclubs that dominate Hiro Narita's lushly impressionistic camerawork.

A widely respected Hollywood cinematographer (Blue Velvet, Unbearable Lightness of Being, Honey I Shrunk the Kids), Narita stated in Feature Magazine that he took the job as a respite from the stifling influence of studio politics and welcomed its low (\$100,000) budget as an artistic challenge. Those who appreciate film as moving pictures will be grateful for his integrity.

"Shuttlecock" premieres November 5th as a part of the Film Arts Foundation's Fifth Annual Festival of local film and video and settles in at the Roxie November 8th through 14th. On November 7th, the Roxie will also present a one-time-only screening of "Dan's Motel" - perhaps the finest local independent feature of the '80s. For other Film Arts Festival presentations, call 863- 1087.

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WYSIWYG

by Manuel E. Dávila

This acronym stands for: "what you see is what you get", and is a generalized way to describe the capacity to preview graphics and characters on a computer monitor as they will actually look on the printed page.

This capacity is at the heart of successful Desktop Publishing. However, the acronym should be WYSIWYPF, which stands for: "What you see is what you paid for". This does not mean that you cannot do DTP if you don't have big bucks, but in order to compensate for the lack of resources, you will have to do some research.

The three basic ingredients of DTP are:
1) A DTP program that fits your needs - As a general rule, the more powerful the DTP program, the longer the learning curve, and, of course, the higher the cost. We already mentioned First Publisher, Pagemaker or Xerox's Ventura Publisher. On the other hand, if you are too enmeshed with your wordprocessing program, then you must find out what is the DTP potential of your wordprocessor. On that score Wordperfect leads the pack of WP programs with its plethora of capabilities, enhancements and utilities. If your need is for presentation graphics (Bar & Pie Charts, etc.) then you will need an appropriate program such as Harvard, Applause or Byline for a combination of DTP and graphics.

2) Any good Wordprocessing program - Powerful as they are, DTP programs do not have all the features of a full-fledged wordprocessing program. Things like spell-checking, a thesaurus, automatic page break or scrolling are not available in Xerox's Ventura Publisher, for instance. This limitation is overcome by the capacity of DTP programs to import text from almost any wordprocessor. Besides, it is really painful to attempt to do wordprocessing in a DTP program, unless you happen to have \$1,000 that you don't need, in order to acquire a bottom-of-the-line full screen monitor.

3) Hardware - A computer with a80286 CPU, known as AT, is the minimum desirable. An 8088/86 computer, better known as XT, will perform as well but the difference in speed is significant. You will also need something called "mouse". A mouse is an accessory attached to your computer that allows you to move around the screen and to perform commands with ease and speed. To print your creations, a laser printer tops the wish list. The Hewlett Packard Laserjet Series II is the largest selling laser printer. It is ruggedly built, the printed output is superb, and has a good resale value. The most important feature of this printer is that it can be upgraded to become a Postscript printer. Postscript printers were, until recently prohibitive, because of its cost, but now there are many companies offering Postscript upgrades for HP Series II that can save you at least \$2,000 ! These upgrades range in price from \$200 to \$1,500.

Not everyone can afford a laser printer. However, 24-pin dot matrix printers are very affordable (starting at \$350) and the printed output is very good. The Epson LQ-500 and the NEC P 2200 are excellent choices.

Fine, now you can produce text with a professional printed look but, what about graphics and drawings to enhance your creations? We already mentioned the availability of so-called clip art. Clip art are drawings, graphics and illustration that have been converted to electro-magnetic format so they can be imported into your DTP or WP program. Libraries of clip art of many different themes are available, and DTP programs such as First Publisher, include a collection of clip art. Again, the price of these libraries is a deterrent. Many are available for free downloading from several electronic bulletin boards which you can access if you have a modem. Later on, hopefully, we will deal with electronic communications. For the moment, suffice it to say that a modem (short for modulator/demodulator) converts digital data into a format that can be transmitted through regular phone lines.

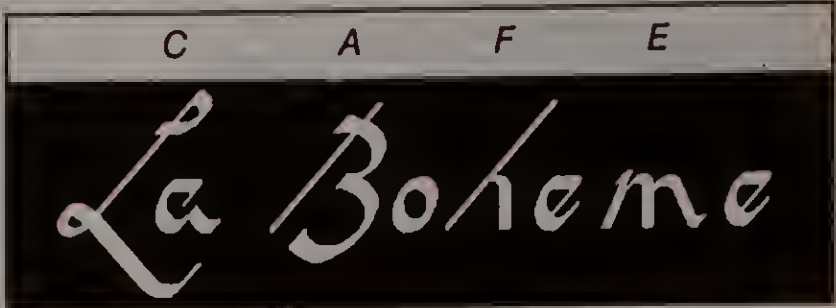
If you don't have a modem - or a hefty bank account to pay for the phone charges you will unavoidably incur in - there are two solutions for your clip art needs. One is to create your own. There are many "paint" or "draw" programs such as PC-Paintbrush, GEM, and even public domain drawing programs you can download with a modem, or buy. The other solution is to acquire a scanner. A scanner will "scan" your favorite drawings and illustrations and convert them into electronic form ready to import into your DTP program. A poor's people hand scanner may be purchased for \$200-\$300.

The veiled caveat embodied in this article must be evident by now and, indeed, there are many expenses and pitfalls along the way for those who want to get initiated in DTP. My advice is to plan with anticipation, start small, become familiar with the hardware and software, and ask for demonstrations from dealers and vendors. Also, a seasoned consultant may save you a lot of frustration and money.

Comments, questions or suggestions? Please write to Manuel E. Dávila, THE ELVES, Office Support Services, 3370 - 24th Street, S.F., CA 94110, or call (415) 824-4418.

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★ ★ ★ ★ ★ THE NIMBY COMPLEX ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



—by J. B. Saunders

The Dis-ease: Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary defines a complex as: an exaggerated reaction to a subject or situation. Take for instance the 7.0 quake that stunned San Francisco on Oct. 17, 1989 at 5:04 PM, leaving many people

homeless and hurt. To adopt an attitude: "I'd like to help them, but Not In My Back Yard," would be adding insult to injury: *such a response is ignorant, insensitive, and oppressive.*

In the Tenderloin, the Mayor's master plan for a 24-hour multi-service center has encountered neighborhood opposition and

concern. Had the Mayor's Homeless Coordinator sought input from the community, prior to drafting this planning document, a positive relationship could have existed between the center developers and neighborhood residents. Instead, much needed services to the poor and homeless are being unnecessarily delayed, and the myth that facilities for the homeless have a negative impact on decent residential districts continues to live on.

In another political arena, San Francisco's Democratic Party organized a city-wide voter registration drive, paying signature gatherers one dollar per signature. However, a five percent limit was set for homeless voter registrations. The reason being, stated the coordinator: "we can register homeless people, but we have a real problem getting them out to vote." (How much money do you spend on Get Out The Vote efforts?)

On the other side of town, the Mission community may lose one of its most exciting cultural events: CARNAVAL—1990. The word on the street is that neighborhood merchants don't want a lot of drunken, homeless people vomiting all over the place. (Racism in another form?)

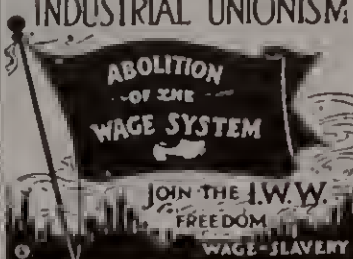
Homeless people no longer feel like members of any particular political party, or a part of society-at-large, but rather like passive observers manipulated by politicians and service providing organizations. Homeless people are systematically excluded from decision making processes concerning programs developed to help stabilize their living situation. And, as government funds are funnelled into

programs supposedly aiding homeless people, the homeless population grows to astronomical proportions.

The NIMBY COMPLEX is but one indication of a deeply troubled society; unless we attempt to cure the disease (rather than mask the symptoms) the situation of homeless people in San Francisco will only get worse, and homeless people will continue to die.

The Cure: Increase the stock of geographically dispersed low-income housing and homelessness facilities, and realize: homelessness is not a temporary tourist attraction. It is here to stay.

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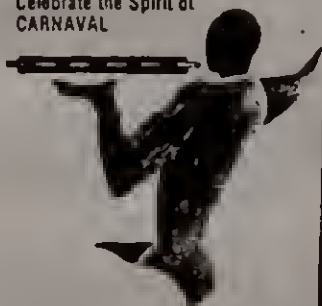


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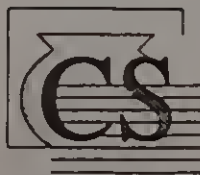
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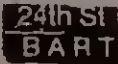
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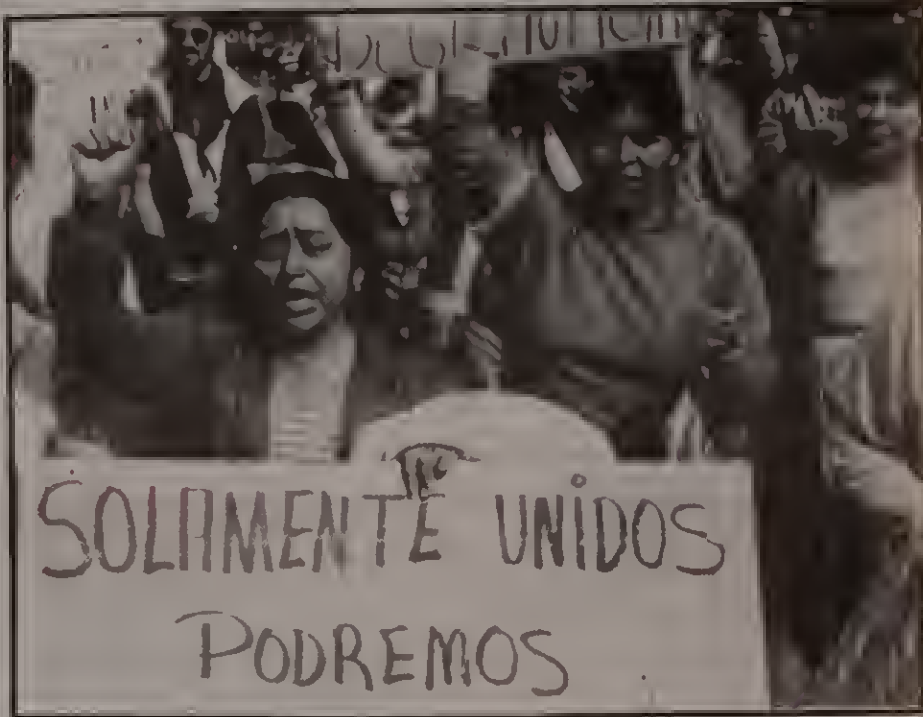


FREE PARKING

MISSION DISTRICT CALENDAR
NOVEMBER

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Wednesday Matinee in a lively afternoon of movies, discussion and refreshments. Sponsored by Operation Concern's Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders. 2:15-4 pm, 333 Turk, 626-7000. (Or call for other programs too numerous to mention here.)



"Watsonville Strike" plays on November 4th as part of the Film Arts Festival.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Fifth Film Arts Festival kicks off at the Roxie and runs through Nov. 5. There are 13 programs of made-in-the-Bay-Area independent films and videos. Themes for the shows are: Teatro!, Telling Stories, Gay Lives '89, Open Screen, Ten Ways of Looking (Bay Area Video), Justice Is A Constant Struggle, Americana Pie, Of Men and Angels, Far Out! II, Personal Portraits, Film: Endangered?, Matters of Life and Death, and Shuttlecock (see Nov. 8). Call 863-1087 for times/details. 3117 16th.

Heart of the World, Eureka Theatre and A Traveling Jewish Theatre's drama of a love story between a Christian woman and Jewish man who are expecting a child and must confront their cultural differences. Preview through 7th; opening Nov. 8, through Dec. 3. Wed-Sat. 8 pm; Sun. at 7:30. \$11-\$17. 2730 16th; 558-9811.

Nancy Tyler Glenn reads from and signs her new novel, *Clicking Stones*, the story of 7 year old Erica, who stumbles into a mystical place where a mysterious old woman gives her a very special stone. 7:30 pm, Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Cowboy Love and other dances in a concert of solo and duets co-produced by the Bread and Butter series and featuring Gail Chodera, Ed Gabel, Tiona Gundy, Bonnie Hossack and David Miller. 8:30, Footwork, 3221 22nd, 824-5044. \$8; also Saturday.

Beauty and Blood: Mayan sacrifice, blood-letting and body modification for Friday night fun. SF State Professor and Archaeologist Karen Bruhns gives a lively presentation with blood curdling slides and comparisons of Mayan practices to modifications like liposuction, tummy tucks and facelifts. 8, Southern Exposure, 401 Alabama, \$4.

Black Choreographers Moving Toward the 21st Century is a national dance festival showcasing ten innovative Black choreographers from four regions of the United States. Program 1: through Sunday at 8, with Garth Fagan, Joanna Haigood, Alonzo King, John Pickett, Lula Washington. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida, 621-7797. Opening night, \$25; all other nights \$16. (Also see Nov. 10.)

Weird Fear is Pulp Playhouse's collection of scary stories improvised from titles given by the audience. Come in costume and get more mileage from your Halloween garb! 11 pm, Eureka Theatre, 2730 16th. \$8; 922-9375.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Wrongdoing Wrapped In The Flag: Only following orders (or, Rationalizations, Don't Fail Me Now!). Meiklejohn Civil Liberties sponsors this fete over the best closing arguments in U.S. v. Oliver North. 4-8, ACLU, 1663 Mission. 848-0599

Homeless Planning Meeting sponsored by the All-Peoples Congress to discuss working together for earthquake relief justice (i.e., house the homeless in hotels and apartments, not army barracks). 1 pm, 2489 Mission, Room 28. 821-6545.

More Homeless support as the 19th Street/Oakwood Neighborhood holds a garage sale to benefit the Mission District homeless. 10 am-4 pm, Golden Gate Lutheran, 601 Dolores at 19th. For info or to make a donation call Sara O'Brien, 824-4013.

Walk the Walls today and the 18th as the Precita Eyes Muralists lead a walking tour of Mission District murals, including Balmy Alley. Meet at 1:30 pm, 348 Precita near Folsom. \$3 general, \$1 for students. 285-2287.

Acknowledgement Workshop for older lesbians, sponsored by Operation Concern; group exercises and demonstrations for gaining personal empowerment. The emphasis will be on alternatives to the holidays with discussion of strategies on how to cope with the seasons' pressures. 11 am-2 pm, 1853 Market. Free. Call 626-7000.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Bay Area Theatre Sports Varsity Match featuring veteran comedy improv/sports players/jocks/Giant fans. 8 pm, New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th, \$6.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

The Big Mama Stories author Shay Youngblood reads from and signs from this book of short stories. 7:30 pm, Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia. Donation.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Shuttlecock U.S. premiere: Jerry Barrish's dramatic film about love and betrayal stars Will Durst, Anne Block, Maria Isaacs and Liane Hielscher. Shot entirely in Moss Beach, San Francisco, and Pacifica. Durst and Pacifica! What more could you ask for? 6, 8 & 10 pm, The Roxie, 3117 16th, to Nov. 14. Sat. & Sun. matinees: 2 & 4.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Words on Walls as Lucienne Bloch and Stephen Dimitroff, who both were

CINE
and the York
Theater present

Gabriel Garcia
MARQUEZ
on film

FRI-THURS
NOVEMBER
3-16



5 films					SUNDAY	
TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
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apprentices to Diego Rivera and whose work can be seen in the Bay Area, lecture about murals (not graffiti). 7:30 pm, Precita Eyes Arts Center, 348 Precita. 285-2287.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Black Choreographers Moving Toward the 21st Century Program 2: through Sunday at 8, with Donald Byrd, Cleo Parker Robinson, Jawole Willa Jo Zollar. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida, 621-7797, \$16. (Also see Nov. 3.)

For those who missed Hank Hyena, ATA offers *Scatalogical Rites: Sterile Breeding For Mandatory Specimens - A Three Ring Circus* with a colon and a hyphen in the description, video, performance and installation by Scott Shat and Michelle Handelman (are both names puns?). Theme is the body. (Merde! Same day as the Calendar Ed's wife's birthday, and we have opera tickets.) 8:30, 992 Valencia, \$3.

Nailed! Not for the faint-hearted as Sheree Rose combines slides of tattooing, piercing and scarification with a bondage/bloodletting ritual. Joining her is Bob F., poet/comic, with a graphic demonstration culminating in an emotionally charged presentation of his ingenious autocrotic scaffold. 8 pm, Southern Exposure, 401 Alabama, \$7. 863-2141.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Book Arts Benefit Concert to benefit New College's Book Arts Program, with Penelope Houston, J.C. Hopkins, and the Sundials. 9 pm, 777 Valencia, \$6.

Sexual presentation and representation in videos about feminist produced pornography, exhibitionism/voyeurism, and on in which "1000 penises parade without prudishness nor prurience." (But will it play at the National Endowment for the Arts?) ATA, 8:30, 992 Valencia, \$5. Call 824-3890.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Exercise your options by joining in the 5K Run/Walk for women and girls of all ages, sponsored by Options For Women Over 40. 8:30 am in Golden Gate Park; call 431-6944 for details. Join in the T-shirts, entertainment, refreshments and awards.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Earth and Sky staged reading at the Eureka Theatre as part of its Discovery Series. This murder mystery by Douglas Post tells the story of David and Sara, transformed by the power of love until David is found dead in a dumpster (it would cool things down). It promises a funny, sharp and witty plot. 8 pm, 2730 16th, \$4. 558-9811.

Bridging the Global Gap with Medea Benjamin and Andrea Freedman, who discuss this new book, the first major work on the growing internationalist movement focusing on the interdependence of nations. 7:30, Modern Times, 968 Valencia.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Michelle Cliff reads from her recent novel, *No Telephone To Heaven* and from her forthcoming book of short fiction, *Bodies Of Water* as part of Intersection for the Arts Writer in Residence program. 8 pm, 766 Valencia, 626. \$4, or \$2 for members.

Housing, Homeless and Community discussed by Richard Register, Bill Rumpf and Greg Francis as part of Greentalks. 7:30, New College, 777 Valencia. \$3-10.

Hate No More: Toward Ending Prejudiced-based Violence forum on hate-motivated violence (instead of the more typical violence toward our loved ones) runs today and Wednesday, co-sponsored by the SF Human Rights Commission and Coalition for Civil Rights. 6-10 pm, Old State Building, 350 McAllister, Room 1154. 558-4901.

Puppet Show by Witch Hazel at the Mission Library, 10:30 am, for ages 3 to 4. But please call 824-2810 for group advance reservations. 3359 24th.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Joyce Cooling, jazz/Brazilian guitarist/vocalist, headlines at the Great American Music Hall with her new band, The Rio Connection. 8:30 & 10:30, 859 O'Farrell, \$9.

Small business insurance workshop covers how to satisfy the city's insurance company. (This workshop could probably be subtitled, "The journey of 1000 miles begins with one step.") 8:30 am-noon, Dept. of Public Health, 101 Grove, Room 300. Sponsored by Human Rights Commission. Call Pansy Waller, 558-4901.

Vast Water Installation by sculptor Carl Cheng premieres at the Capp St. Project (through Jan. 13). Visitors are greeted with a vast expanse of moving water and treated to the soothing sound that only water in motion can make. (Perhaps Bono will spray "Rock and roll stops traffic" on it.) Reception today, 5-7, 270 14th. Call 626-7747.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Body Electric Part III in a celebration of the individual's right to freedom of expression in body, mind and spirit. Tonight: Jack Hirschman, Jack and Adele Foley, Tony Seldin, Michael Koch and Gale Bishop. Saturday: Jack Mueller, Jesse Beagle, Joie Cook and Herman Berlandt. Phil Deal collaborates both nights on saxophone, flute, piano, vocals and his two kinetic light towers. 8 pm, 449 Alabama, Studio 113.

Hole in her Sole dances with Judy Suden, Erica Essner and others as part of the Bread and Butter series. 8:30, Footwork, 3221 22nd, 824-5044. \$8; also Saturday.

Capp St. Experimental Projects program features original mixed media art by the mentally disabled, organized by muralist Johanna Poethig. The various performances and artwork will run through Jan. 3; call 626-7747 for details. 270 14th.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Old St. Mary's 10th Birthday doesn't sound very old, but it's the Housing Committee's free anniversary celebration. This volunteer group provides free assistance for anyone. Call 398-0724 to volunteer, or for more information on the celebrations.

If the above does not interest you, how about good old films from the likes of Les Blank and others on *body alteration*? You know, tattoos, circumcision (male and female), contortionism, head binding and prosthetics. ATA, 8:30, 992 Valencia, \$5.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Slavyanka has just returned from its second tour of the USSR direct to the Community Music Center. This renowned male choir specializes in a capella Russian and Slavonic music, both liturgical and folk. 4 pm, 544 Capp, 647-6015.

March Against Contra Aid and U.S. intervention in Nicaragua's elections, sponsored by Nicaragua Solidarity Coalition. 11 am Civic Center; 1 pm Dolores Park.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Open Lesbian and Gay Reading with host Stephanie Henderson. All disciplines and levels of experience invited to read and listen. 7:30 Modern Times, 968 Valencia, free. Call 282-9246.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Zaballa's *Yolotl-xochitl* and rainforest *Feast* in an evening of films honoring indigenous peoples of America, whose land theft we obliquely celebrated two days ago (although I still can't give back my lovely Mission apartment near so many wild west shootouts and stabbings.). ATA, 8:30, 992 Valencia, \$5. Call 824-3890.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Bay Area Theatre Sports Rookie/Varsity Match in the *last chance* for a Monday show in November. So, *show up!* 8 pm, New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th, \$6.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Earth Wind and Firings group showing of paintings and ceramics by artists from Creativity Explored, a visual arts center for disabled adults. Guest curators Joe Sam and Jo Hanson host works by Henry Bruns, Norma Cativo, Terry Chon, Michelle Kunard, Cam Quach, William Scott, Bill Snyder and Ray Tingley. Gallery Imago, 619 Post, 775-0707. Through December 23. Artists' reception Nov. 30, 5:30 - 8 pm.

Feminism And Nationalism In The Third World, by Kumari Jayawardena, is the topic for this Radical Women's meeting. This historical analysis focuses on the contributions of women in Asian and Muslim countries toward ending multi-issue oppressions, and addresses the direction of movements for national liberation and socialism. Dinner at 6:45 (donation), meeting at 7:30. 523A Valencia. 864-1278.

Promoting green and open spaces for SF panel discussion with special guests and opportunities for citizen involvement. 7:30, New College, 777 Valencia. \$3-10.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Shockees Spirit Festival, or a gathering of bogus electro-counterculture tribes, those which turn to electric shock for that bigger and better high. In the midst of this, Fred Rinne shows his documentary on this phenomena and Barry Schwartz shows his video oriented electro-sculpture. ATA, 8:30, 992 Valencia, \$3. Call 824-3890.

ONGOING

Ugly, as *Not A Pretty Picture Productions* sponsors an art show and performance spectacle at Artist's Television Access to expose the War On Drugs. For info on making your art/performance part of the January show, call 824-3890 *immediately*.

Orientation to the Trades Workshop geared for women, Tuesdays in November. This workshop will give info on how to enter the trades, training programs, etc. 3 pm, O'Connell Community College Center, 108 Bartlett at 22nd, Room 209. 550-3127.

Dornthea Lange, the great N. California photojournalist, has her life celebrated in a theatrical portrait produced by Tale Spinners Theater. 8 pm Thurs-Sat, 2:30 Sunday, to Nov. 26. \$8 Thur/Sun, \$10 Fri/Sat. Studio Ercmos, 401 Alabama, 621-8875.

Michael Smolens Trio plays each Sunday from 7 to 10 at Bajones. No cover. 1062 Valencia near 22nd. 282-2522.

Get a shot for merely \$1 if you are 55+ as SF's annual Flu Prevention Campaign continues through Dec. 30 at various locations and times. Call 554-2550 for details.

Calendar listings are free to all Mission organizations; \$5 for outsider mentions. The Calendar Editor is completely responsible for all intended and unintended insults. If necessary, complain at 641-0889. So leave NMN Editor Victor Miller alone.

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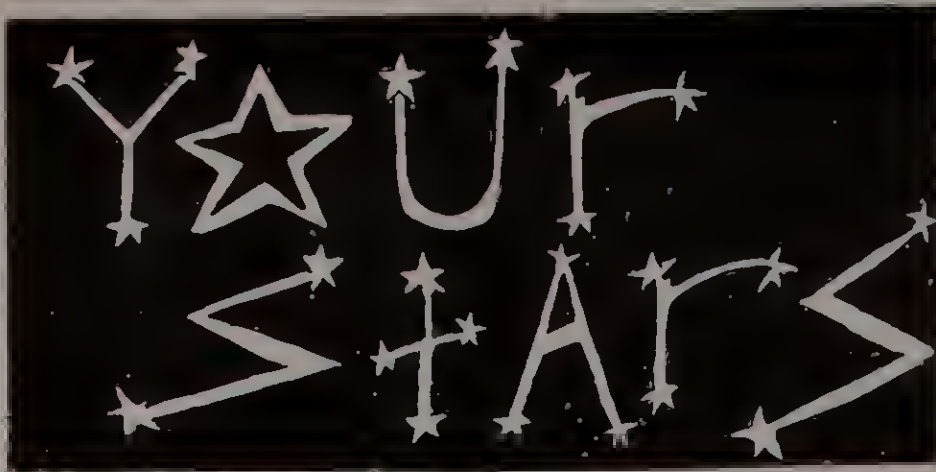
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ALMANAC: Now that all the planets are moving directly through our skies, we begin to feel the forward thrust of creative expression; all those desires we refused to admit during the past summer suddenly surge forward beyond our control. We can no longer be afraid of what we really want. On the same day that Saturn conjoins Neptune (November 13 at 4:42 AM PDT) Jupiter will oppose Saturn (at 10:28 PM PDT). The very next day, on the 14th, Jupiter will oppose Neptune at 12:12 PM PDT. The structures of fear will be shattered to reveal the glowing crystal of pure love. You rule!

ARIES (MAR 21—APR 19): Despite the pressures you've been feeling in your home life, your social career is expanding beyond all previous limitations. You are becoming a glamorous star in public and very important people in the community are waiting in line to get their hands all over you. It would be a major mistake to hide your troublesome family situation; sooner than later your personal will be revealed. Admit to the problems, but only when you are asked. Otherwise, revel in your wildest fantasies.

TAURUS (APR 20—MAY 20): An incredibly deep and intense feeling of security exists between you and your lover this month. Every step you take, every word you speak, every hug you make vibrates with the utter essence of love. You are deeply, madly, profoundly in love. But more amazing is how this experience of intimacy shatters your logical beliefs and hard-nosed values. Relax and learn the truth of the old saying: "When you're in love, the world's in love with you."

GEMINI (MAY 21—JUN 20): Stay bundled up this month because it's going to get cold and damp where you're staying. Whether at home or at work, these conditions are likely to put quite a strain on your health. Therefore eat well, exercise regularly and use plenty of preventative medicine all month long. You may be required to nurse your housemate through a troublesome health crisis. Her/his illness is related to a lack of appreciation, so show how much you really care. Gratitude is the best elixir of all.

CANCER (JUN 21—JUL 22): A strange hit'n'miss romance will become a major part of your life—play this month, and it will generate an odd array of consequences which nobody, not even you, fully understands. Considering the fact that you and your playmate are so wildly mismatched, it makes perfectly good sense that others look at your relationship with total amazement. Right now you don't have to worry about explaining the why's and wherefore's; but by the time Thanksgiving rolls around, you better have the story straight.

LEO (JUL 23—AUG 22): Lots and lots of rest is recommended for you this month, so set aside the big plans and the cramped schedules and the awesome responsibilities right now. Burst the over-inflated bubble of high hope and take a long, serious look at the state of your health. Ignorance and denial are no longer good excuses for avoiding what's really going on. Besides, if you start taking better care of yourself, everyone will be happier. No one expects or wants you to kill yourself with work and worry.

VIRGO (AUG 23—SEP 22): When was the last time you read an informative book or attended a class in some new subject? This month your mind is simply dying for new stimulation, and it won't be satisfied with any more TV soap operas or sleazy gossip over the telephone. Commercial stimulation will continue to dull your hopes and darken your vision of the future. The world isn't coming to an end; your old ideas are. Re-educate yourself with vigor for everybody's benefit.

LIBRA (SEP 23—OCT 22): You will be presented with major decisions regarding your home and your job this month. First, due to intense real estate speculation in the neighborhood, you or your landlord may decide to put your building on the market. Second, your income is likely to shift significantly because of changes in the general economy. When facing these situations, look inward and feel your real desires. Ask yourself "What do I want?" even if it seems horribly selfish.

SCORPIO (OCT 23—NOV 22): Happy, happy birthday to every gentle, delicate, sexy, intelligent, profound, loving Scorpio in the audience. You are aging with gracefulness and your future is bright with possibility. The stars reveal that the new year will bring you a different religion, an option to travel abroad, renewed connections with siblings, and a brand new love. May the gods and goddesses embrace your spirit with purity and compassion. And may the fates bring you a lucky lottery ticket.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 23—DEC 21): The social scene is absolutely thrilling this month and you are the ultimate center of attention. Maybe it's because you're so sexy, or maybe it's because you have a brilliantly colorful aura shining around you. Your power and persistence makes everybody stare. With this kind of attention, you should stand on your soapbox and shout till

kingdom come. Whether it's selfish or selfless, what you want is what they want to give you. Assert deepest desires.

CAPRICORN (DEC 22—JAN 19): Riding on a crest of considerable success can be fun until you start focusing on where you're going. For the first half of the month revel gloriously in the hoopla of past accomplishments; there's still plenty of notoriety coming your way. For the second half of the month, contemplate your next big move. If you can't clearly see the future, seek the advice of your very best friend. S/he will stand by your side no matter what course you ultimately choose to follow.

AQUARIUS (JAN 20—FEB 18): Coincidences push you into the center of public affairs this month, and the rush of fame may start a struggle between power and service deep in your soul. While your lover advises you to avoid power and do service, your co-workers want you to skip service and take power. Our recommendation is that you come to realize that power is service and service is power. There are so many people looking up to you for leadership. Where you go, we all will follow.

PISCES (FEB 19—MAR 20): It's that time of the year for you to experience truly incredible spiritual awareness. The depths of inner satisfaction and the heights of personal worthiness will come within your range of consciousness. While your lover and friends stand back in awesome respect, you will feel innocently naive like a child of the universe. Use your sense of humor to communicate how magical you feel. And don't be embarrassed if you hear somebody call you a saint.



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The Bilinguales

The literary establishment in this country is not interested in truth. The literary establishment in this country does not care for honesty. This includes the deadly-hip "alternative" literary establishment. Zyzzyva, Five Fingers Review, Naropa Institute, New College of California — the whole load of them — all run screaming from anyone who dares to truly confront his own dark mind and heart.

The literary establishment in this country is not interested in letting people speak. it wants to hear itself speak. "Find your voice," they tell you, meaning "find our voice and blend with it."

The literary establishment in this country is a snake with its head up its ass. The literary establishment is a threat to the world's forests. The literary establishment is unable to justify its feeding of the paper industry.

The literary establishment in this country preaches to the converted. The literary establishment has its own priesthood. Holy Holy Holy Ginsberg. The literary establishment practices excommunication.

The literary establishment in this country is two hundred people and only eight slices of pizza.

The literary establishment in this country was not fond of Bill E. Badd.

Remember Bill? He used to write the "geek" column for this paper until his liver failed in November 1988 and I took over as "geek". If you do remember Bill E. Badd, you also realize there are more reasons than the ones I've suggested why the literary establishment rejected him. Namely, Bill was an atrocious writer. His brain was pickled in alcohol. He was unable to think or write coherently. But what did ooze from his pen, occasionally, were visions of darkness. Visions of his own dark mind and heart, as seen in himself and in the world he inhabited.

Bill E. Badd wrote about he squamous underbelly of the Mission. The All-Star Hotel, where he lived. The BART station after dark. Winos, pit



bulls, hookers, cops and junkies. He wrote about it all as honestly as he could — albeit with a touch of the Irish, a bit of macho “signifying”, a dash of hyperbole.

Yesterday I went to a bookstore in the Mission to look at some of the new literary magazines — the so-called “alternative” publications that represent the literary establishment in this country.

I sure do miss you, Bdl.

I was lying in a gutter on Folsom Street, not far from the All-Star Hotel, when the earthquake hit.

Now ordinarily, from such a vantage as I then enjoyed, the sight of undulating pavements, buckling sidewalks and swaying buildings wouldn't bother me. You get used to things like that when you walk (or crawl) in Bill E. Badd's footsteps. This time, though, the curb actually detached itself from the sidewalk and toppled on me! The people who freed me from the rubble say I was unconscious through the whole ordeal, but I know that isn't

truc. I know what I saw, with waking eyes, when I looked down through the gutter grate: the sewer splitting open, titani flames leaping from a bottomless abyss, plumes of smoke and yellow sulfur billowing from the pit. And there, upon a ledge of the revealed abyss, stood a burning table and a burning chair; and on the table stood a bottle; and on the chair sat Bill E. Badd, grinning with his snaggle-teeth and waving up at me from Hell.

"Hey Frankenstein Deadbeast!" he hollered up, "I knew I'd see you here! Got a smoke?"

My hand was already in my pocket when the curb hit me, so now, still buried under ounces of rubble, I felt around in there for cigarettes. Finding them, I worked one out of the pack with two fingers. A xerox copy of my new column for the North Mission News — my second annual Bill E. Badd memorial column, printed above — was also in my pocket, all wadded up around a half-eaten peach. As I worked the cigarette out of my pocket, my column fell out, plummeting with the cigarette through the grate and landing neatly on Mr. Badd's table. He took the cigarette and lit it on the nearest flame, threw away the peach with a scowl, and then, taking several swigs of brimstone from the free bottle in front of him, he unwadded the paper and began to read:

"The literary establishment in this country..."

I watched him anxiously as he read. I watched his expression dance from agreement to anger to amusement to disgust as the flames licked his face like dogs. Then he wadded up the paper and tossed it the way of the peach, down the throat of the all-swallowing abyss.

"Well?" I said, "what did you think?"

"Too literary," he said, and snapped his fingers to summon the grinning, eyeless bartender hovering nearby on bat-like wings. A second later, the crack in the earth closed up, I was pulled from the rubble, and darkness spread its wings over the City.

See you after the Big One, Bill. Or sooner...

San Franciscans need the real news about the events following the "Quake of 89." **Within six days of the quake, over 95% of the businesses in the Marina and Cow Hollow were back to business as usual.** Practically all of your favorite neighborhood serving small retail and service establishments were back at work within a matter of a day or two. Many of our fine restaurants are back to serving full menus...*now, not three months from now!*

The impact of the earthquake has been devastating to those whose homes and lives were violently changed. The members of the Marina Merchants Association and the Union Street Association are committed to be there for you, but we will need help, too. Due to loss of business after the earthquake, many small businesses (those who can least afford it) have suffered economic losses; and, unfortunately, our overhead, payroll, and other expenses continue. **We hope San Franciscans from all areas will consider our area in their shopping and dining plans for the immediate future and the coming holidays.** Chestnut, Lombard, and Union Streets have been here in the past for you... *we need you now* so that we can be here in the future. We are back in business *now* and look forward to your visit, soon.

Some firms in the Marina will be donating a percentage of their sales/profits to local relief agencies, so you can help the relief effort as well as your neighborhood small businesses. **Please visit the Chestnut, Lombard, and Union Street shopping areas of the Marina...and see how well (and quickly) San Francisco has come back to life...as usual!**

Dennis Beckman, President Union Street Association

P.S. For information on any specific Marina business, call 1-800-BAY-AREA.

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